

HEADQUARTERS 654TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 339, US ARMY

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials *B.C.C.*Date *18 Mar 1945*

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against the Enemy.

TO : The Adjutant General,
Washington 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with the provisions of Par 10 CZ, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion covering the period 1-28 February 1945.

February 1, 1945

Battalion enroute from St Mihiel, France, closed at Dalhem, Belgium at 0600 hours. Distance travelled 179 miles. Gun companies performing maintenance work. Track vehicles of "B" and "C" companies still enroute by rail. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 2, 1945

Command Post remained in Dalhem, Belgium. Companies continued maintenance work. No contact with enemy. Battalion remained in reserve - 35th Infantry Division.

February 3, 1945

Command Post remained in Dalhem, Belgium. Companies performing Motor Maintenance. Tracked vehicles of "B" and "C" companies arrived in Vise, Belgium at 0900 hours, and arrived in company area at 1200 hours. Battalion had no casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 4, 1945

Command Post closed at Dalhem, Belgium at 1300 hours and opened at Gangelt, Germany at 1600 hours. Distance travelled 39 miles. All companies remained in Dalhem, Belgium, performing motor maintenance. Company commanders made separate reconnaissance of entire division sector for routes and anti-tank positions. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 5, 1945

Command Post remained at Gangelt, Germany. All companies closed at Dalhem, Belgium, at 0800 hours. "A" Company opened at Schierwaldenrath, Germany at 1300 hours. "B" Company opened in Gillrath, Germany at 1500 hours. "C" Company opened at Gellenkirchen, Germany at 1500 hours. Reconnaissance Company opened at Schierwaldenrath, Germany at 1315 hours. Headquarters Company opened in Gangelt, Germany at 1100 hours. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

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February 6, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Gun companies remained in assembly areas performing maintenance work. Company commanders continued to make separate reconnaissance of division sector for anti-tank positions. No change in assignment or attachment. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 7, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany in Division reserve. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered anti-tank positions to meet enemy armor. All companies maintaining contact with adjacent units. No casualties of vehicles or personnel. 26 M10s operational.

February 8, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Gun companies in assembly areas, prepared for movement to reconnoitered anti-tank positions to ward off enemy armor. No contact with enemy.

February 9, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas prepared to move immediately to reconnoitered positions to ward off any threat of enemy armor. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 10, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. No change in assignment or attachment. Gun companies remained in respective assembly areas prepared to move immediately to previously reconnoitered positions to ward off enemy armor. No contact with enemy. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 11, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. No change in assignment or attachment. Fifteen reinforcements received from 18th Reinforcement Depot, and assigned to Headquarters Company. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared to move immediately to reconnoitered positions to meet enemy armor. No contact with enemy, and no casualties of vehicles or personnel. 26 M10s operational.

February 12, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered anti-tank positions to meet enemy armor. 3 officers and 30 enlisted men undergoing instructions on M36 Tank Destroyers at 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Battalion had no casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 13, 1945

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Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Lieutenant Spain and two enlisted men departed for England, on furlough. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared to move to previously reconnoitered anti-tank positions to ward off enemy armor. No change in assignment or attachment.

February 14, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Lieutenant Colonel Linton, Battalion Commander, and eight enlisted men, departed on seven-day leave to Great Britain. Captain D. L. Benton, Jr., assumed command of battalion. Sixteen reinforcements received and assigned to Headquarters Company. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared to move to reconnoitered positions to ward off enemy armor.

February 15, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Battalion in Division Reserve. No contact with enemy.

February 16, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Sergeant Zenos L. Pritchett awarded the Bronze Star Medal, at Geilenkirchen, Germany, by Captain John Zach. Mr. Armbruster, Technical Observer on Tank Destroyers, for General Motors, visited Command Post. "B" and "C" companies received 15 M36 B-1 Tank Destroyers from 351st Ordnance.

February 17, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Gun companies receiving instructions on M36 Tank Destroyers. Lieutenants Dunne and O'Meara, respectively, and thirteen enlisted men departed on 72-hour pass to Paris, France. "A" Company continued in assembly area, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered anti-tank positions to meet enemy armor. "A" Company received 4 M36B1 Tank Destroyers from 3512 Ordnance. "C" Company received 5 M36B1 Tank Destroyers from 3512 Ordnance. "B", "C" and Reconnaissance companies, respectively, remained in assembly area receiving instructions on new destroyers.

February 18, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. No change in assignment or attachment. Companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered anti-tank positions to meet enemy armor. One Reconnaissance Platoon attached to "B" Company, and One Reconnaissance Platoon attached to "C" Company. Tank Destroyer crews receiving instructions regarding new type of Tank Destroyers. No casualties of vehicles or personnel. 12 M10s and 24 M36s operational.

February 19, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. No change in assignment or

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attachment. First Lieutenant Arthur A. Ellis, O-465248, awarded the Bronze Star Medal, by Captain Berry, at 1155 hours, in the vicinity of Geilenkirchen, Germany. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered positions to meet enemy armor.

February 20, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Technician Fourth Grade Gordon E. Frasier, "C" Company, awarded the Bronze Star Medal, at Geilenkirchen, Germany, by Captain Berry, at 1755 hours. Two rounds of enemy heavy artillery landed in vicinity of Command Post, at 0030 hours. No casualties in vehicles or personnel. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered anti-tank positions to meet enemy armor. "A" Company fired 80 rounds 90mm ammunition on training, morning of 20 February; "C" Company fired the same amount for training purposes in the afternoon of 20 February.

February 21, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Captain Edwin H. Berry, "C" Company, and First Lieutenant Max Crosman, of Headquarter Company, transferred to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 12th Tank Destroyer Group. First Lieutenant Scott P. Cooper assumed command of "C" Company. "B" and "C" companies, respectively, turned in four M10s and drew four M36s in their place. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered positions to meet enemy armor. Tank Destroyer crews continued to receive training on M36s. "B" Company fired 80 rounds 90mm ammunition for training, morning of 21 February. No contact with enemy. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 22, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. No change in assignment or attachment. Five reinforcements received and assigned to Headquarters Company. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas, prepared for immediate movement to reconnoitered positions to meet enemy armor. Each gun company fired 40 rounds of 90mm ammunition for training this date. Reconnaissance Company captured two spies in vicinity of Birgden, Germany, coordinates 828693. "A" Company received four (4) M36s from 3512 Ordnance. 35 M36s operational.

February 23, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. No change in assignment or attachment. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas with "A" and "C" companies, respectively, prepared to cross Roer River, on Division Order. "B" Company in Division Reserve. "A" Company in direct support of 134th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company in direct support of 320 Infantry Regiment. No casualties in vehicles or personnel. 36 M36s operational.

February 24, 1945

Battalion remained in Division Reserve. Gun companies continued in respective assembly areas in Division Reserve. Tank Destroyer crews con-

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tinued training on M36s. "C" Company in direct support of 320th Infantry Regiment, and ready to move forward at any threat of enemy armor.

February 25, 1945

Command Post remained unchanged in Division Reserve, in Gangelt, Germany. Four reinforcements received and assigned to Headquarters Company "A" Company, supporting 134th Infantry Regiment. "B" Company, supporting 137th Infantry Regiment, moving under cover of darkness to coordinates 977715. "C" Company, in direct support of 320th Infantry Regiment. 3rd platoon of "C" Company, fired 63 rounds of 90mm AP ammunition damaging or destroying 12 enemy pillboxes on East side of Roer River; fired 20 rounds 90mm HE into town of Krickelburger, killing approximately 50 Germans. One Reconnaissance platoon attached to each gun company. No casualties to vehicles or personnel.

February 26, 1945

Command Post remained in Gangelt, Germany. Two reinforcements received and assigned to Headquarters Company. Four enlisted men departed for Great Britain, on 7-day furlough. Company "A" left old area at Schierwaldenrath, Germany, at 0600 hours and arrived at Randerath, Germany, at 0700 hours. Distance travelled 10 miles. "B" Company moved from vicinity of Gillrath, Germany at 1400 hours and arrived at Baal, Germany, at 0430 hours. Distance traveled 15 miles. Company "C", with one Reconnaissance platoon, attached in direct support of 320th Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Platoon from firing position at Map Coordinate 881764, fired 26 rounds APC, 7 rounds T-105, and 6 rounds HE, as a feint, in support of the 134th Infantry Regiment. Destroyed 3 pillboxes across the Roer River and four buildings, used as strongpoints in the town of Carsbeck, Germany. Enemy casualties unknown. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 27, 1945

Command Post closed at Gangelt, Germany at 1400 hours and opened at Grebben, Germany, at 1500 hours. Distance travelled 20 miles. Company "A" closed at Randerath, Germany at 1300 hours and opened at Hulckelhoven, Germany at 1400 hours. Continued in support of 134th Infantry Regiment, 3rd platoon destroyed one enemy 40mm anti-tank gun in the vicinity of Schaufenberg, coordinates 923743. "B" Company, in support of the 137th Infantry Regiment. 3rd Platoon destroyed one enemy 20mm anti-tank gun in the vicinity of coordinates 9477, with 5 rounds of 90mm HE ammunition. "C" Company continued in direct support of 320th Infantry Regiment. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

February 28, 1945

Command Post closed at Grebben, at 1420 hours and opened at Wassenberg, Germany, at 1955 hours. Distance travelled - six (6) miles. "A" Company closed at Hulckelhoven, Germany at 0900 hours and opened at Wassenberg, 1010 hours. Continued in support 134th Infantry. "B" Company closed at Houvorath, Germany at 1130 hours and opened in vicinity of Myhl, Germany at 1300 hours and continued in support of 137 Infantry.

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February 28, 1945 - Cont'd.

2nd Platoon fired 20 rounds 90mm. HE ammunition into town of Myhl, night of 27 February. "C" Company new part of Task Force Byrne; captured one prisoner. Captain John Safley, Reconnaissance Company awarded the Bronze Star at 1100 hours by Captain D. L. Benton. No casualties of vehicles or personnel.

Casualties

Killed in Action:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Missing in Action:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Wounded in Action:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Injured in Action:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Non-battle Death :	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0

Awards and Decorations

Bronze Star	Officers: 3	Enlisted Men: 5
Oak-leaf cluster to Bronze Star:	Officers: 1	Enlisted Men: 0
Air Medal:	Officers: 1	Enlisted Men: 0
Certificate of Merit	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 20

Total number of enemy prisoners captured: Two

For the Commanding Officer:-

Joe M. Arnold
 JOE M. ARNOLD,
 1st Lt., F. A.,
 Adjutant.