

# SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
692D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 230 US ARMY

ESCHWEILER, GERMANY  
31 January 1945



## PART II

Period 1 January 1945 to 10 January 1945

The 692D Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to 104th Infantry Division, continued to support the Infantry Regiments and to deliver reinforcing Artillery Fire in support of organic Field Artillery Battalions, as follows:

	<u>Infantry</u>	<u>Artillery</u>
Company "A"	413	386
Company "B"	415	929
Company "C"	414	—

The Battalion continued to organize and deepen the Anti-Tank defense in the Division Sector, and continued the preparation of supplementary and alternate positions in accordance with FO No. 16, 104th Infantry Division, dated 29 December 1944. The Battalion prepared "Dummy Positions" in forward position areas for purposes of deception.

In accordance with FO No. 17, 104th Infantry Division, dated 10 January 1945, the Battalion initiated reconnaissance for positions for Division Plan "A".

At the beginning of this period, the Battalion had forty (40) 3" guns operational. During the period, the Battalion received five (5) additional German 75mm PAK guns; recovered and emplaced one (1) German 88mm gun and one (1) German 75mm PAK. All enemy guns were test fired prior to emplacing in position. At the end of this period, the Battalion had forty (40) 3" guns, six (6) German 75mm PAK's, and one (1) German 88mm Gun, distributed within the Battalion as follows:

	<u>3"</u>	<u>75mm</u>	<u>88mm</u>	<u>Total</u>
Company "A"	14	1	0	15
Company "B"	14	2	0	16
Company "C"	12	3	1	16
	<u>40</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>47</u>

During this period, the Battalion had two (2) platoons in indirect fire positions, in support of the artillery. The first platoon, Company "A", vicinity of LANGERWEHE, Germany, supporting the 386 Field Artillery

# SECRET

Battalion, and the third platoon Company "B", vicinity of LUCHER-BENG, Germany, supporting the 929 Field Artillery Battalion. The platoons and extra sections were in Anti-Tank positions and/or in support of Field Artillery Battalions, as follows:

<u>Platoon</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Supporting</u>	<u>Mission</u>
1A	036471	386 FA & 413 CT	Indirect
2A	057466	413 CT	Direct
3A	085454	413 CT	Direct
Extra Section	013484	413 CT	Direct
1B	073504	415 CT	Direct
2B (atch'd "A")	070483	413 CT	Direct
3B	044506	929 FA & 415 CT	Indirect
Extra Section	015512	413 CT	Direct
Extra Section	016497	413 CT	Direct
1C - 1st Sec	085439	413 CT	Direct
2nd Sec	092452	414 CT	Direct
2C	102409	414 CT	Direct
3C - 1st Sec	061432	414 CT	Direct
2nd Sec	084409	414 CT	Direct
Extra Section	075405	414 CT	Direct
Extra Section	084407	414 CT	Direct

Map: Area "K", 1/25,000, Germany



The reconnaissance platoons operated under Battalion control. Two OP's in the vicinities of LENDERSDORF-KRAUTHAUSEN, Germany, and GURZENICH, Germany were established and maintained by the first reconnaissance platoon during this period. The second reconnaissance platoon remained in Battalion Reserve in the vicinity of ESCHWEILER, Germany.

During this period, the Battalion suffered one (1) battle casualty (killed), resulting from enemy mines. One (1) EM was given a thirty (30) day furlough in the United States as authorized by rotation plan in effect in ETO.

Since the situation was stabilized, the Battalion made a concerted drive to salvage all abandoned equipment and ammunition, both friendly and enemy. The Battalion S-4 section made organized tours within the Division Area to recover equipment and supplies of all types. As of the end of this period, the drive has been successful as large quantities of equipment have been recovered.

### Period 11 January 1945 to 20 January 1945

There was no change in disposition or support throughout the Battalion during this period.

During the period, the Battalion continued to strengthen and improve positions occupied, prepared additional "Dummy Positions", and

**SECRET**

continued in preparation of supplementary and alternate positions in accordance with FO No. 16, 104th Infantry Division, dated 29 December 1944.

The reconnaissance for positions was completed and coordinated under Plan "A", FO No. 17, 104th Infantry Division, dated 10 January 1945. These positions were prepared, which preparation was expedited by the use of bulldozers and dynamite. Plans for withdrawal, strategic or tactical, to these positions were completed in coordination with Division Plan. The preparation of these positions gave considerably more depth to the Anti-Tank defenses within the Division Sector.

Reconnaissance for sectors of responsibility and for gun positions under Plan "B", 104th Infantry Division, was completed. Selection of such positions was in conjunction with a furtherance of Division's Plan for defense in depth.

The first reconnaissance platoon continued operation of OP's at positions previously mentioned. The second reconnaissance platoon established a daylight OP in the vicinity of HOVEN, Germany for the purpose of registering the first platoon, Company "A", and the third platoon, Company "B", and to be forward observer for targets of opportunity.

During this period the Battalion suffered two (2) Non-Battle casualties (One death resulting). Three (3) EM received the Purple Heart Award for injuries received by the result of enemy action.

The Battalion continued the salvage drive. Companies organized "Salvage-Teams" to supplement S-4 personnel in recovery of equipment and supplies. Excellent results were obtained.

Officers and EM were given "Rest Periods" under various Division Allocations.

The Battalion made preparation for instruction in weapons, tactics, etc. to be held daily within each Company.

Period 21 January 1945 to 31 January 1945



Effective 1800 hours, 28 January 1945, first and second platoons, Company "A", inter-changed positions. Second platoon now in indirect fire position in support of 386 Field Artillery Battalion. There were no other changes in disposition throughout entire Battalion.

The Second Platoon, Company "B" relieved from attachment to Company "A", effective 2400 hours, 26 January 1945, reverted to Company "B" control. Company "C" received three (3) additional 3" guns, replacing three (3) German 75mm PAK's. As of 31 January 1945, the disposition of guns were as follows:

**SECRET**

# SECRET

	<u>3"</u>	<u>75mm</u>	<u>88mm</u>	<u>Total</u>
Company "A"	14	1	0	15
Company "B"	14	2	0	16
Company "C"	15	0	1	16
	<u>43</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>47</u>

During this period the Battalion conducted training in camouflage, weapons, and tactical employment. Also, the orientation program was intensified.

The Battalion began preparation for possible conversion to Self-Propelled Tank Destroyers. A program of training was coordinated with the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) in assembly position in vicinity of LINGE, Belgium. Selected personnel from this Battalion attended classes being held on maintenance, employment of Self-Propelled Tank Destroyers, and observed range practice of M-36, Self-Propelled Tank Destroyers. As of 31 January 1945, this Battalion had sent four (4) Officers and forty-two (42) EM to such classes.

On 31 January 1945, meeting with Company Commanders was held at Battalion Headquarters, discussing probable conversion to Self-Propelled.

The following awards were approved during this period:

- 1 - Silver Star
- 9 - Bronze Stars
- 6 - Purple Hearts
- 26 - Certificates of Merit



The Battalion suffered two (2) Battle casualties during the period.

SAMUEL S. MORSE  
Lt Col - FA  
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

*George V. Carragio*  
GEORGE V. CARRAGIO  
Maj - Cav  
S-3