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S-3 REPORT

NO:

From: 312400A January 1945  
To : 282400A February 1945  
Unit: 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion  
Place: Otzenrath, Germany  
Date and Hour of Issue: 282400A  
February 1945.

NO: 12

MAPS: GSGS 4336, 1/100,000; Sheet 59, 1/50,000; Sheet 19, 1/50,000; GSGS 4414, 1/25,000; GSGS 4040, 1/50,000.

I. OUR FRONT LINES: Does not Apply.

II. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Battalion, under Battalion control, located in vicinity of Ozenrath, Germany.

III. LOCATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS: Does not apply.

IV. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

The 702nd TD Battalion under 2nd Armored Division control remained in LINCÉ, BELGIUM (K502148) reorganizing and training after action with the Division at CINEY and HOUFFALIZE, BELGIUM (K610721) from 012400A February 1945 until 031935A February 1945. Maintenance and training of platoons and Infantry-Tank-TD tactics accomplished.

The battalion moved with the 2nd Armored Division from LINCÉ, BELGIUM (K502148) to the vicinity of EPEN, HOLLAND (K717435), closing in area 040330A February 1945. The entire battalion remained in the vicinity of EPEN, HOLLAND (K717435) until the 7 February 1945, completing maintenance and making preparations for coming operations with the 2nd Tank Destroyer Group.

On the 071900 February the battalion moved via AACHEN, GERMANY (K980430) to the vicinity of ALDENHOVEN, GERMANY (K980560) under control of 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, closing in new area 072400 February 1945.

The battalion forward CP remained in DURBOSLAR, GERMANY from the 7th to the 25th of February maintaining wire communications with companies, supported units, and higher headquarters. Battalion Rear CP remained in EPEN, HOLLAND (K717435) to maintain communication and liaison with the 2nd Armored Division. During this period the battalion conducted a school for replacements assigned to the organization.

On the 26th February 1945, the Battalion Forward CP moved across the ROER RIVER at SCHOFHOVEN, GERMANY (K058540) to NIEDERZIER, GERMANY (K106550) with Companies "A" and "B".

Company "A", on arrival at ALDENHOVEN, GERMANY (K980560) 072330 February 1945 placed their platoons in position in the vicinity of PIER (K062324) and KIRCHBERG (K030560) to support the attack of the 30th Infantry Division across the ROER RIVER in that sector. The First Platoon took positions below the high ground south of KIRCHBERG, GERMANY (K030560); the Second Platoon was placed in indirect firing positions east of LOHN, GERMANY (K995538) and the Third Platoon occupied positions east of PIER, GERMANY (K062524).

Company "A" remained in the vicinity of INDEN, GERMANY (K0335520) making preparations for the operation by preparing indirect and direct firing positions for all guns, until 230245A February when at H-45 (230245A) the First and Third Platoons moved up to firing positions and the Second Platoon fired fifty rounds per hour on the road from HAMBACH (K092564) to NEW HAMBACH (K116575) as directed by XIX Corps Artillery until H plus 210. The two direct fire platoons supported the 30th Infantry attack by firing missions as called by FO's furnished by the 823rd TD Battalion.

During the initial attack and until the 251300A February, Company "A" continued to lay direct and indirect fire on main routes and installations in enemy territory East of the Roer River. Two enemy tanks and pillboxes were neutralized by fire. Routes of supply and communication were placed under heavy fire and in the vicinity of HAMBACH (K092564) and NIEDERZIER, GERMANY (K108549), TOLHOUSEN (K150616), OVEREMBT (K180628) and ELSDORF, GERMANY (K180602) during the night.

On the 251300A February 1945, Company "A" under Battalion control crossed the ROER RIVER at SCHOFHOVEN, GERMANY (K058543) and assembled on the West edge of NIEDERZIER, (K106550) awaiting orders to move North of LICH, GERMANY (K123604) with the secondary mission of harassing by fire the bridges spanning the Erft Canal.

Company "B" on arrival at ALDENHOVEN, GERMANY (K980560) 072230A February 1945, placed their platoons in the vicinity to support the attack of the 29th Infantry Division across the ROER RIVER in that sector. The first and second platoons were placed in indirect firing positions at K955590 and K985568. The Third Platoon remained in defalade in the vicinity of BOURMEIM, GERMANY (K996574) prepared to take up positions on the high ground to fire direct fire in support of the attack.

Company "B" remained in the vicinity of ALDENHOVEN, GERMANY making preparations for the operations by surveying and registering positions. Wire and radio communications were established with supported and higher units. All preparations completed by 222400A February 1945.

At H-45 (230245A) the First and Second Platoons laid fifty rounds per hour on roads leading East from JULICH (040590) to STEINSTRASS (K125598) and MERSCH (K047634) to TITZ (K080184) until H plus 210. These missions were repeated during D day (23 Feb 45) and at intervals throughout the period until 241145A February on call from XIX Corps Artillery. The towns of RODIGNE (K104638), AMELN (K088660), SPIEL (K070652) and TITZ (080184) were fired on during the two days 23-24 February 1945. Also fires were laid on roads running into the main road into STEINSTRASS from the south. Two batteries of 150, guns were unable to retreat due to this fire and were captured intact by our advancing infantry.

On the 241145A February 1945, Company "B" moved from the vicinity of ALDENHOVEN, GERMANY (K980560) across the ROER RIVER at SHOFHOVEN, GERMANY (K058540) taking up positions at NIEDERZIER, GERMANY (K106550) to fire on towns along the East flank of the attacking infantry and along the ERFT CANAL.

During the night 26-27 February 1945, Company "B" fired 1200 rounds on the towns of ELSDORF (K180602), EECH (K165612), NIEDREMBT, (K161636), KIRCHTROISDORF (K145456) and KLEINTRALS DORF (K135662) GERMANY. On the night 26-27 February 1945, Company "B" fired 1800 rns on the towns of NIEDEPFMBT and BELBURG, GERMANY (K185667). During the day of the 27 February 1945, Company "B" fired two hundred rounds on enemy infantry positions (K221656) and (K224644) in support of Omaha. XIX Corps Artillery also ordered 600 rounds fired on BEDEBURG, GERMANY (K185667).

Company "C" under Battalion control, after reaching Aldenhoven, Germany 072230A February 1945, placed all three platoons in defalade positions along the river in the vicinity of MERSZENHOUSEN, GERMANY remaining in that location until 221200A February at which time the guns were moved forward on the commanding terrain to fire direct fire on targets across the ROER RIVER. All preparations were made for going into secondary mission as soon as direct and flanking fires were masked. Communications by wire and radio with supported and higher units was established.

During the Day 23 February 1945, Company "C" fired direct fire across the river in the 115th Inf Regt sector at assault guns and strong points, neutralizing the enemy fire. Rapid advance of our troops masked the fires of Company "C" during the afternoon of 24 February 1945. Company "C" remained in position, however to be used in event of enemy armored counterattack.

Reconnaissance Company furnished FO's for Company "C" for the attack across the ROER RIVER. On the 251200A February 1945, the platoons were placed with the three line companies for future operations.

[REDACTED]

The battalion reverted to control of the 2nd Armored Division at 270700A Feb 45. The 702nd TD Battalion (-Companies A, B, and C) remained under Division control for the coming operations.

At 270600 February 1945, Company "A" reverted to the control of CC "A", 2nd Armored Division and moved with that organization to the vicinity of MERSCH, GERMANY (K049634)

On 28 February 1945, Company "A" moved North with CC "A" from the vicinity of MERSCH, GERMANY attacking toward GREVENBROICH, GERMANY. The first platoon was attached to the Reconnaissance Company, 66th Armored Regiment.

On the 271400A February 1945, Company "B" under control of CC "R", 2nd Armored Division moved from NIEDERZIER, GERMANY to the woods southeast of JULICH at coordinates K065574, prepared to assist in flank protection of the 2nd Armored Division during the drive to the North.

On the 28th February 1945, Company "B" moved with CC "R" toward the North via MERSCH - TITZ - JACKERATH - GARZWEILER - OTZENRATH. Road blocks were established in the area of JUCHEN, GERMANY (K134793) for protection of the 2nd Armored Division left flank.

Company "C" was placed on alert for anti-tank defense until 260800A February 1945 at which time they moved with CC "B", 2nd Armored Division across the ROER RIVER at JULICH, GERMANY (K035590) in support of the limited tank attack in the vicinity of STEINSTRASS, GERMANY (K121598). During the night of 26-27 February 1945 Company "C" placed road blocks at the following coordinates: K125598 and K135628.

On 28 February 1945, Company "C" moved in the attack of CC "B" toward GREVENBROICH, GERMANY (K185685) in support of the tanks. Company "C" reported probable destruction of one enemy tank during a fire fight on the night of 27th February 1945.

V. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY: Does not apply.

VI. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: On the 25th February 1945, Companies "A" and "C" destroyed or neutralized one SP gun, two tiger tanks, numerous pill boxes and OP's. Two batteries of 150, guns were unable to retreat due to our fire and were captured intact by our advancing infantry.

*John A. Beall*  
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Lt Col, Inf,  
Commanding.