

#516

SECRET

S-3 REPORT

FROM: 312400 March 1945
TO : 302400 April 1945
UNIT: 702nd Tank Destroyer Bn
PLACE: Immendorf, Germany (C833978)
Date and Hour of Issue: 302400A
April 1945

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NO: 14

MAPS: GSGS 4416, Scale 1/100,000.

I: OUR FRONT LINES: Does not apply.

II: LOCATION OF TROOPS: Bn under Division Control located in the Vicinity of IMMENDORF, GERMANY (C833978).

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

IV: OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD: The 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (less Companies A and C), under Division control, moved from the vicinity of MURRICK, GERMANY (A019496) to the vicinity of ST. VIT, GERMANY (B372568) placing road blocks to protect assembly areas and supply routes upon closing on the 1 April 1945.

On 2 April 1945 the Battalion (-) moved to KAINITZ, GERMANY (B588643) clearing woods in the vicinity of enemy troops and blocking to the South and East for possible enemy attack. From the 3 April 1945 to the 5 April 1945 the Battalion (-) moved from AUGUSTDORF, GERMANY (B688676) to LEMIGO, GERMANY (B795817) and then to BERUCH, GERMANY (B003824) under Division control, employing Company "B" and the Reconnaissance Company (- two platoons* to safeguard Division Rear areas and South flank. During occupancy of area at Badpymont, Germany (D033775) the Battalion (-) was given mission of sweeping the wooded area in the vicinity and investigating report of an enemy tank and road block to the South. Three Officers and 92 EM were taken prisoner and road blocks reduced. No enemy armor was encountered.

The Battalion (less Companies A and C) moved across the Weser River on the 7 April 1945 and closed in the vicinity of ALFERDE, GERMANY (B352982) with the mission of protecting that town and to be prepared to block to the North or East on Divisional order. Reconnaissance was made of the Division sector in preparation of either mission.

On the 8 April 1945 Company "A" reverted to Battalion control and Company "B" was placed in support of CC "A". From the 8 April 1945 to the 9 April 1945 the Battalion (minus Companies B and C) remained in ALFERDE, GERMANY (B352982) stressing maintenance and reorganization, prepared to support either Combat Command in the drive East toward the Elbe River.

The Battalion (-) under Division control moved to BINDER, GERMANY (B685913) on the 10 April 1945. Road blocks were placed to the North to protect CC "R" assembly areas and Division Headquarters.

On the 11 April 1945 Company "B" of the 17th Engineers and one platoon (Flame Throwers) of the 739th Tank Battalion were attached to the Battalion (-) moving with the Battalion as Division Reserve to HORNBURG, GERMANY (C964855) closing in area 111630B April 1945. The Battalion (-) was alerted to support either combat command on orders. One section of Tank Destroyers and one squad of 17th Engineers prepared to occupy positions at coordinates (C975869) on Division order.

On the 12 April 1945 the Battalion (-) plus Company "B", 17th Engineers and one platoon (F.T.) 739th Tank Battalion (-) was alerted to support either combat command on orders. One section of Tank Destroyers and one squad of 17th Engineers along with the rest of the Battalion moved from HORNBURG, GERMANY (C975869) to Kl. Wanzleben, Germany (C489920). A roving patrol consisting of one platoon of company "B", 17th Engineers remained in Oschersleben, Germany (C400870). Road blocks were placed to

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Authority: 735017
By: JH HAWA Date: 1

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the North and East to protect the Division area from armored threat from MAGDEBURG, GERMANY (D665000). Company "A" was alerted at 1840 and moved to indirect firing positions at (C665915) prepared to fire missions as ordered by Division Artillery. The 1st platoon of Company "A" was in support of CC"R". On the 13 April 1945 the Battalion (minus Companies B and C) and one platoon of Company "A" moved to BENNECKENBECK, GERMANY (C635945). On the 14 April the Battalion (-) plus one platoon (FT) 739th Tank Battalion and Company "B", 17th Engineers moved to the vicinity of (C605905) closing in area 141730B April 1945. Company "A" (minus one platoon) relieved of indirect fire mission reverted to Battalion control and moved to the battalion assembly area. En captured 167 prisoners during the period.

The Battalion (-) remained in the assembly area at coordinates (C605905) until the 18th April 1945 placing road blocks and patrols to the East to protect the Division area and to repel any armored thrusts from MAGDEBURG, GERMANY. The Battalion (-) remained on alert to move to any part of the Division area on order.

On the 18 April 1945 the Battalion (less Companies B and C and one platoon of Company "A") plus one platoon of flame throwers and Company "E" 17th Engineers moved to LAUGHWEDDLER, GERMANY (C604899). Preparations made for extensive maintenance on vehicles, weapons and radios. The Battalion (-) moved to SALZGITTER, GERMANY (C810865) on the 20/545 April 1945 in the Division assembly area. Outpost, road blocks and interior policing force established in the town to prevent hostile attack and to provide military government. Maintenance, rehabilitation and re-organization to be stressed. The Battalion (-) prepared to move to any part of the Division area on order. Twenty-one AM taken prisoners during this period.

On the 27 April 1945, the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (minus Companies A, B and C) moved to HEMENDORF, GERMANY (C833978) to take charge of seventeen displaced persons and Prisoner of War camps in the vicinity, to collect and billet all Western displaced persons and ship them to entraining points as directed by the Second Armored Division. From the period 27 April 1945 to the 30 April 1945, the Battalion (-) cleaned the camps in preparation for incoming persons; move approximately 4000 Russian and Polish displaced persons to the South in the vicinity of SALZGITTER, GERMANY (C810865); received approximately 5000 displaced persons and Prisoners of War; and transported 2900 to the railheads at OEBISFELDE, KALTENDORF, GERMANY (C309314) and HILDESHEIM, GERMANY (C520970).

Company "A", in support of CC"A", with the three platoons in support of the respective task forces of the 60th Armored Regiment attacked along the Northern axis of the Division advance toward the Elbe River. Company "A" on the 30th March 1945 was credited with the destructions of one locomotive and five box cars. On the 31 March 1945 Company "A" destroyed, by direct fire, six cargo trucks.

On the 3 April 1945 Company "A" moved to the vicinity of coordinates (B605700) with the mission of protecting CC"A" assembly area. The 1st Platoon was placed on road blocks at (B561724); 2nd Platoon at (B607698) and 3rd Platoon at (B690661). Company "A", with CC"A" moved to LEMGO, GERMANY (B795817) closing in area 042015B April 1945.

On the 5 April 1945 Company "A" supported the drive of CC"A" across the Weser River in the vicinity of OHR, GERMANY, assisting in the enlarging and protection against enemy counterattacks on the bridgehead. Company "A" after crossing placed road blocks along the Innerste River to guard the flanks of the advance on the 7 April 1945. During the two days operations Company destroyed one locomotive, two half-tracks and two light Reconnaissance vehicles by direct fire. Three officers and seventy-eight enlisted men were captured.

Company "A" was relieved of attachment to CC"A" and reverted to Battalion control placing road blocks protecting the approaches to ALFERDE, GERMANY (B352982) and prepared to send guns to the North or East on Division order on prepared plans to protect the area from armored attack.

On 10 April 1945 Company "A" under Battalion control, moved from ALFERDE, GERMANY (B352982) to BINDER, GERMANY (B 3513) prepared to assist or reinforce either combat command in the event of counterattack. Particular stress was laid on the North flank.

Company "A" moved with the Battalion to HORNEBURG, GERMANY (C964855) on the 12 April 1945 placing road blocks throughout the area to protect the Division

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assembly area. The 2nd Platoon of Company "A" was placed in support of CC"R" to move across the 83rd Infantry Division bridge on order.

On the 12 April 1945 Company "A" minus one platoon moved to indirect firing positions at coordinates (C675915) prepared to fire missions as ordered by Division Artillery. The 2nd Platoon remained with CC"R" to guard the bridgehead from enemy armored attack. One enemy officer and 49 enlisted men were captured. Company "A" fired two-hundred and fifty rounds of harrassing fire on targets ordered by Division Artillery on the 13 April 1945. Two hundred and fifty six rounds were expended on the 14 April 1945, after which time Company "A" (-) was relieved from their secondary mission and reverted to Battalion control.

On the 16 April 1945 Company "A" was alerted for tank attack in the direction of KL. OTTERSLEBEN, GERMANY and placed guns around that town. No enemy armor was contacted but blocks were continued in the vicinity to protect the Division Headquarters and Division installations in that area.

Company "A" with the Battalion (-) moved to the vicinity of LANGENWEDDINGEN, GERMANY (C604899) prepared for reorganization and extensive maintenance.

On the 20 April 1945, Company "A" under Battalion control moved to SALZGITTER, GERMANY (C810865) in the Division assembly area. Road blocks were placed on bridges in the vicinity and interior posts for the defence of the town and an internal police force was established.

From the 20 April 1945 to the 28 April 1945 Company "A" remained in SALZGITTER, GERMANY (C810865) with the mission of protecting the town and policing. On the 28 April 1945 Company "A" was relieved of mission of guarding the installations and of road blocks by Company "B" and released for maintenance and rehabilitation.

Company "B" under Battalion control, moved to the vicinity of ST VIT, GERMANY (B372568), on the 1 April 1945, placing road blocks throughout the area to protect the Division routes and rear installations. On the 2 April 1945, Company "B" moved with the Battalion (minus Companies A and C) to KAMNITZ, GERMANY (B588643) placing road blocks at coordinates protecting the assembly area. During the 3 April 1945 Company "B" was placed in indirect firing positions at coordinates (B678686) to fire harrassing fire on LEGENLEMO and VETHOLD, GERMANY, assisted by the 69th F.A. Battalion.

On the 4 April 1945 Company "B" was relieved from the indirect mission and moved with Battalion (-) to LEMGO, GERMANY (B795317) occupying road blocks on order from Division at coordinates (B795831) and (B805829) protecting the assembly area from the Northwest, West and Southwest.

From the 5 April 1945 to the 7 April 1945 Company "B", under Battalion control moved with the Battalion (-) as Division Reserve following the right route of CC"B" prepared to assist either Combat Command on order, protecting rear installations and routes as ordered by Division at BRUCH, GERMANY (B003824); BADPYRMONT, GERMANY (B033775) and ALFERDE GERMANY (B352982) closing in this area 071830B April 1945. During this period three officers and seventy-nine Prisoners of War were taken and four enemy killed on mopping up operations in the Division rear.

Company "B" was relieved from Battalion control on the 8 April 1945 and placed in support of CC"A" in replacement of Company "A", and moved to the vicinity of SCHULENBURG, GERMANY (B395017) prepared to assist in the attack East across the INNERSTE RIVER. The 1st Platoon was placed in support of Task Force "A". Company "B" (-) under CC"A" control assisted in the attack North toward ALGERMISSLEN and WATZUM, GERMANY. The attack was halted and units returned to SCHULENBURG, GERMANY (B395017) by Division order to prepare for the attack Northeast of HILDESHEIM, GERMANY (C520975). During the day Company "B" shot down one ME-109 airplane at JEINSEN, GERMANY (B408045) and captured 20 enemy enlisted men.

From the 9 April 1945 to the 13 April 1945 Company "B", in support of the three task forces of CC"A", assisted in the drive toward the ELBE RIVER, protecting assembly areas and placing direct fire on AA and AT guns when encountered, moving East to the ELBE RIVER. On the 13 April 1945 Company "B" (- three platoons) moved with CC"A" in CC"A" Reserve to IRXLEBEN, GERMANY (C565024) to protect that town and secure the area, remaining in that area until the 15 April 1945. Reconnaissance of routes to the 83rd Infantry Division bridgehead was made by the 2nd Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, attached to Company "B", on order from CC"A". During these operations from HILDESHEIM, GERMANY (C520975) to IRXLEBEN, GERMANY (C565024),

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and captured ten enemy enlisted men.

On the 16 April 1945 Company "B", less three platoons, which remained on blocks under the respective task force commanders along the ELBE RIVER, moved to SCALER-BENITZ, GERMANY (0670930) securing the area and policing the town, remaining in this area until the 17 April 1945 preparing for the attack on Magdeburg, Germany. On the 18 April 1945 Company "B" (less two platoons) in CC"A" reserve moved to GR. OTTER-SLEBEN, GERMANY (0625953). All platoons occupied AT positions protecting the flanks of the attacking force and assisted by direct fire against road blocks in the city. On the 20 April 1945, after MAGDEBURG, GERMANY was cleared of the enemy Company "B" with CC"A" moved to WOLFENBUTTEL, GERMANY (0900115) to repel attack or to meet the enemy armored thrust advancing from the East. Company "B" less two platoon, outposted the town of WOLFENBUTTEL, GERMANY. Company "B" (minus two platoons) remained in this location until the 25 April 1945 accomplishing maintenance and stressing athletics and reorganization.

On the 26 April 1945 Company "B", less two platoons, under CC"A" control moved to SALZGITTER, GERMANY (0810865) to replace the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (-) in policing and guard of the city, remaining in that location with this mission through the period.

Company "C", in support of CC"B" moved with Combat Command East on the attack toward the Elbe River, moving on the right flank of the division from the 1 April 1945 along the LIPPE CANAL, to the 6 April 1945. The three gun platoons were placed in support of the three columns and during the attack destroyed by direct fire, three Mk V tanks, one Mk IV tank in the vicinity of DETMOLD, GERMANY (B789673) and captured thirty-five prisoners.

On the 7 April 1945 Company "C" moved to BANTEIM, GERMANY (B387874) with the 2nd and 3rd platoons on road blocks at coordinates (B515946) and (B549931), remaining in that location through the 9 April 1945 stressing maintenance and reorganization to continue the attack East. Plans and reconnaissance were made for defence of the Combat Command area in event of armored enemy attack.

Company "B", in support of CC"B", moved to coordinates (B796838), with CC"B" on the continued attack East toward the Elbe River, on the 10 April 1945. This attack continued through the 12 April 1945 moving into the vicinity of BAD SALZELMEN, GERMANY (0730855). The 1st Platoon was placed at coordinates (0739860); 2nd Platoon at (0887878) and the 3rd platoon at (0640953). Company "B" remained in this location through the 13 April 1945. During this operation Company "C" destroyed two light armored vehicles and one cargo truck. On the 15 April 1945 Company "C", less two platoons, moved to BAD SALZELMEN, GERMANY (0735857) with the 2nd and 3rd Platoons occupying AT positions at coordinates (0735861) and (0760879), remaining in these locations until the 19 April 1945. During this period Company "C" captured eight enemy officers and two hundred and thirty (230) enlisted men. On the 19 April 1945 Company "C", in support of "CC"B" moved to WESTERMUSEN, GERMANY (0700923) with the gun platoons in position along the Elbe River. On the 20 April 1945 Company "C" moved to the town of SCHENINGEN, GERMANY (0215985) to place roadblocks around the town and police the area. Seven road blocks were established to enforce the Division regulations, and a patrol maintained to police surrounding towns and areas. Guards were placed on captured installations and supply dumps. On the 22 April 1945 an enemy hostile armored attack threatened CC"B" area from the North. Two platoon of Company "C" assisted in the surrounding and mopping up of this hostile force. Upon cessation of the alert Company "C" resumed operations in the SCHONINGEN area. Maintenance athletics and rehabilitation were stressed. Six thousand mile checks being accomplished as ordered by Division.

V. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY: Does not apply.

VI. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent

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VII. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

a. By Date and Company

<u>Date</u>	<u>"A" Company</u>	<u>"B" Company</u>	<u>"C" Company</u>
1 April 1945	1 Locomotive w/5 boxcars 6 Trucks, cargo		2 Mk V Tanks
4 April 1945			1 Mk V Tank 1 Mk IV Tank
6 April 1945	1 Locomotive 2 half-tracks 2 Light Recon Vehicles		
9 April 1945		1 ME-109	
10 April 1945		4 Railroad Arty Pieces 2 Railroad AA guns (88mm) 2 AT Guns (75mm) 1 Half Track 1 1/4 ton truck	
11 April 1945			4-120mm Dual Purpose Guns 2 Light Arm'd Vehicles 1 Truck, cargo 2 Road Blocks

b. Total by types:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 - Mark V Tanks | 2 Locomotives |
| 1 - Mark IV Tank | 5 boxcars |
| 4 - Railroad Arty Pieces | 7 Trucks, Cargo |
| 2 - Railroad AT guns (88mm) | 3 Half-Tracks |
| 2 - AT Guns (75mm) | 4 Light Reconnaissance vehicles |
| 4 - 120mm, Dual Purpose Guns | 1 1/4 ton truck |
| 1 - Plane, ME-109 | 2 Road Blocks. |

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Harry H. Hart
 HARRY H. HART (ass)
 MAJOR, FA
 Commanding.