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:AUTH: CO 703d TD Bn:
:INIT: *WCS*
:DATE: 3 January 1944

**HEADQUARTERS
703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230
DWS/1gd**

3 January 1944.

A. Unit: 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1. Battalion attached VII Corps, further attached Third Armored Division from 1 Dec 44 to 17 Dec 44.
2. Battalion attached V Corps, further attached First Infantry Division from 17 Dec 44 to 25 Dec 44.
3. Battalion (less "B" Co) attached V Corps, further attached First Infantry Division from 25 Dec to 25 Dec 44.
4. "B" Co attached XVIII Corps (4/3), further attached 82nd Airborne Division from 25 Dec to 25 Dec 44.
5. Bn (less "B" Co) attached XVIII Corps (4/3), further attached 82nd Airborne Division from 25 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44.
6. "B" Co attached V Corps, further attached First Infantry Division, further attached 26th Inf Regt from 25 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44.

C. STRENGTH: 30 Nov 44: 36 Ofors - 2 M.C. - 682 TF
 31 Dec 44: 34 Ofors - 2 M.C. - 299 TF
 DECOMPOS: 2 Ofors - 0 M.C. - 6 BA

D. STATIONS: Does not apply (see narrative for locations).

E. MARCHES: Does not apply (see narrative).

- F. CAMPAIGNS:
1. Western Germany
1 Dec 44 to 17 Dec 44.
 2. Belgium
17 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44.

G. BATTLES: (see narrative).

- H. COMMANDING OFFICERS:
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Battalion Commander : | 1st Lt Wilbur E. [unclear] |
| "A" Company Commander: | Captain John W. [unclear] |
| "B" Company Commander: | Captain Louis E. [unclear] |
| "C" Company Commander: | Captain Henry E. [unclear] |
| 4th Company Commander: | Captain [unclear] |
| "F" Company Commander: | Captain Sydney S. [unclear] |

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I. LOSSES IN ACTION: Battle Casualties.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

None

"A" COMPANY

Barbalinardo, Benjamin, 32157595	Sgt	19	Dec	44	KIA
Olson, Joseph A., 36235022	Tec 4	19	Dec	44	KIA
Bretschneider, Lawrence T., 33139592	Opl	19	Dec	44	LWA
Michalowski, Theodore W., 31062921	Sgt	27	Dec	44	SWA

"B" COMPANY

Merrie, Albert A., 31064262	Opl	23	Dec	44	KIA
Hamilton, Richard, 35708061	Pvt	21	Dec	44	LIA
Layman, Andrew J., 32160294	Tec 5	26	Dec	44	LWA
Bolts, Harold A., 36158258	Pfc	29	Dec	44	SWA
Zoun, Frank J., 33793925	Pvt	26	Dec	44	LWA
Tjutis, Nick, 32962776	Pvt	29	Dec	44	LWA

"C" COMPANY

Tuberski, Joseph A., 32371332	Tec 5	21	Dec	44	LWA
Ferris, Henry P., 33143928	Pfc	21	Dec	44	LWA
Johnson, Warren, 33153438	Pvt	21	Dec	44	LIA
Martinez, Manuel, 38004311	Pfc	21	Dec	44	LWA

RECOMMUNICATOR COMPANY

None

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

None

Non-Battle Casualties

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Briggs, Francis H., Jr., 01011531	1st Lt	18	Dec	44	Accidental Death
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"A" COMPANY

Hagee, Wilson A., 37010968	Tec 4	19	Dec	44	Dis, slight
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"B" COMPANY

Rumsey, Edward J., 36888217	Pvt	6	Dec	44	Dis, slight
Gurney, Charles E., 36036550	Tec 4	17	Dec	44	Dis, slight
Muscavitch, Anthony L., 31064245	Opl	20	Dec	44	Dis, slight

"C" COMPANY

Peterson, John H., 31064068	Opl	25	Dec	44	Dis, slight
Steadard, Melvin H., 31064303	Opl	27	Dec	44	Dis, slight

RECOMMUNICATOR COMPANY

None

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Benjamin, Levi L., 31064333	Pfc	24	Dec	44	Dis, slight
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J. MISCELLANEOUS:

None.

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K. PHOTOGRAPHS:
None.

For the Commanding Officer:

D. W. Seibert
D. W. SEIBERT
Capt., 703rd TD Bn
S-3.

Incl: Three (3)

1. Narrative.
2. True copy of Unit Journal.
3. Ltr, subj: 90mm firing test, dated, 15 Dec 44.
4. Reproduction of Unit Material Report.

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Incl No 1 to After-
After/Action Report:
7034 TD Bn.
Month of Dec 44.

HEADQUARTERS
703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

EWB/jga

3 January 1945

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS: 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.

(Note: All coordinates listed are found in the Nord De Guerre grid system in the 500 kilometer square (V). All letters preceding coordinates in this narrative designate the 100 kilometer square within the above mentioned area).

On 30 November 1944 the Battalion was disposed as follows:

1). Attachments:

Bn (-"A" & "C" Co's) C Comd HOWER, 3rd Arm'd Div.
"A" Co (-2nd & 3rd Plts) TF "Z", C Comd "A", 3rd Arm'd Div.
2nd Plt "A" Co. TF "Y", 3rd Bn, 32nd Arm'd Regt.
3rd Plt "A" Co. TF "X", 2nd Bn, 32nd Arm'd Regt.
"B" Co (-2nd & 3rd Plts) Under Battalion Control.
2nd Plt "B" Co. TF NOGAN, 3rd Bn, 33rd Arm'd Regt.
3rd Plt "B" Co. TF KANE, 1st Bn, 33rd Arm'd Regt.
"C" Co (-1st & 2nd Plts) C Comd "B" Reserve.
1st Plt "C" Co. TF LOVELADY, 2nd Bn, 33rd Arm'd Regt.
2nd Plt "C" Co. TF FREIBORN, 1st Bn, 33rd Arm'd Regt.
Ron Co (- 3 Plts). . . . Under Battalion Control.
1st Plt Ron Co. "B" Co, 703rd TD Bn.
2nd Plt Ron Co. "C" Co, 703rd TD Bn.
3rd Plt Ron Co. "A" Co, 703rd TD Bn.

2). Locations:

Bn (less "A", "B", "C" and 3 Plts Ron Co) K-938379 vic BREINIG.
Co "A" (-2nd & 3rd Plts) K-928408 vic BUSBAOH.
2nd Plt "A" Co K-948392 vic BREINIGERHEIDE.
3rd Plt "A" Co K-928409 vic BUSBAOH.
Co "B" (-2nd & 3rd Plts) K-923384 vic BREINIG.
2nd Plt "B" Co K-972403 vic FLEUTH.
3rd Plt "B" Co K-939422 vic STOLBERG.
Co "C" (- 3 Platoons) K-922381 vic BREINIG.
1st Plt "C" Co K-978435 vic WERTH.
2nd Plt "C" Co K-978447 vic RAJTENRATH.
3rd Plt "C" Co K-978436 vic WERTH.

1 Dec 44 - Day was spent planning for future operations. Received P.O. No. 17, Hq Third Armored Division which directed the following:

3rd Arm'd Div attacks East and Southeast from vicinity LANGERWHE at 030730A Dec 44 to seize towns of GEICH, OBERGEICH, ROTHANS, D'HONN, and SCHLICH.

Upon seizing the objectives the Division will be relieved by elements of 1st Inf Div and will thereafter return to original assembly area positions via MAUSBAOH and BUSBAOH.

Co "C" during the day moved their CP to vic WERTH K-979435.

2 Dec 44 - no change - continued planning for future operations.

3 Dec 44 - 3rd Plt "B" Co moved to vicinity BREINIG K-923384.

4 Dec 44 - 2nd Plt "B" Co moved to vicinity BREINIGERHEIDE K-922381.

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- 5 Dec 44 - No change - continued planning for future operations. "C" Company conducted firing tests on German PzKw V Tank. (See Incl No. 3).
- 6 Dec 44 - No change.
- 7 Dec 44 - No change.
- 8 Dec 44 - No change.
- 9 Dec 44 - Received O.M. No 17, Hq Third Armored Division, dated 8 December 44 which directed the following:
C Comd HOWZE will attack 100745A Dec 44 in conjunction with attack of VII Corps in direction of OBERGERSICH, WEICH, and WENTZ. C Comd HOWZE to assemble area of LANGERSWEHREN night of 9 Dec 44. C Comd HOWZE will pass through OBERGERSICH and WEICH and a rapid advance on WENTZ will be made. Mopping up to be done by elements of Ninth Infantry Division.
Received P.O. No 6, Hq C Comd "R" (CG HOWZE) dated 8 Dec 44 which explains the attack in more detail and assigns platoons of "B" Co this Bn as follows:
1st Plt (less 2nd and 3rd Plts) attend T.P. Reserve
2nd Plt attend T.P. HOGAN.
3rd Plt attend T.P. KANE.
Plts assembled in following locations on night of 9 Dec 44.
1st Plt at F-053472 via LANGERSWEHRE.
2nd Plt at F-0536474 via LANGERSWEHRE.
3rd Plt at F-026488 via LANGERSWEHRE.
Co "B" fired tests against German (PzKw V Tank) (See Incl No 3).
- 10 Dec 44 - "B" Co Plts supported the attack of CG HOWZE and at end of period were in following locations:
1st Plt with Road Block at F-057467 via BORTHAUS (2 guns only) (2 guns not operational - 1 due to enemy mine, 1 due to mech failure).
2nd Plt vicinity WEICH, fired 60 rds HE and 10 rds APCBDF, 90mm ammo at strong points and dug-in positions. Results effective.
3rd Plt vicinity WENTZ F-070484.
- 11 Dec 44 - The attack continued throughout the period.
1st Plt "B" Co was withdrawn from Road Block and assembled in position vicinity LANGERSWEHRE F-053472 at 1645 hours.
1st Plt destroyed one (1) assault gun on Mk IV chassis this date. Also lost one (1) M-20 to enemy artillery fire.
- 12 Dec 44 - No change.
- 13 Dec 44 - 1st Plt "B" Co moved to holding position via WENTZ, 2nd Plt "B" Co moved on support mission to vicinity HOVEN, 3rd Plt "B" Co moved on support mission to vicinity North of HOVEN, during day. All platoons relieved during evening and re-joined Company "B" CP vicinity BRINIG.
- 14 Dec 44 - No change.
- 15 Dec 44 - No change.
- 16 Dec 44 - No change.
- 17 Dec 44 - At 1550 hours, Bn C reported enemy penetration of V Corps front, after airborne preparation. At 1600 hours Bn C.O. received orders that relieved this battalion of all attachments to VII Corps and attached the battalion to V Corps--would move at about 1900 hours to vicinity of Camp ELSENBERN K-9008 to be further attached on arrival there to First Infantry Division. Time of departure was postponed till 2100 hours.

- [REDACTED]**
- 17 Dec 44** - (cont'd) - Battalion crossed I.P. at 2100 hours and marched throughout remainder of period with enemy aircraft overhead, but with no offensive action taken against our column.
- 18 Dec 44** - Bn closed in vicinity SOURBRODT K-855095 at 0730 hours. Bn attached First Inf Div with mission of remaining assembled in mobile reserve and to be prepared to move to A.T. positions vicinity, line KALTENBERG-SOURBRODT. Companies assembled at following locations:
 Bn (-"A", "B", "C" Co's) via SOURBRODT K-855095.
 "A" Co vicinity SOURBRODT K-862092.
 "B" Co vicinity SOURBRODT K-860079.
 "C" Co vicinity SOURBRODT K-855095
- At 1400 hours, 2nd Plt "A" Co was alerted to be attached to and move with T.F. DAVIDSON, to vicinity WEISBERG to assist in evacuation of an American Field Hospital. All Companies made reconnaissance of routes and position areas throughout period. At end of period, Bn had 28 M-36's operational with 12 in "A", 5 in "B", 11 in "C" Co.
- 19 Dec 44** - At 1030 hours received message that 2nd Plt "A" Co was in contact with enemy. Fired five (5) rounds APCBDF at unidentified enemy tank results unknown. At 1320 hours Bn was relieved of original mission and ordered to provide two (2) TD Companies for direct support of RCT 16 and RCT 26. "A" Co assigned to support 16th RCT to move to assemble on 18 Dec 44. "C" Co assigned to support 26th RCT to move at 1600 hours. "B" Co to remain in present location in Div Reserve and to initiate reconnaissance of routes and positions in Division zone.
 One (1) hon Plt attached each T.D. Co. Reconnaissance was initiated by Ron Co for new Forward CP location. At 1500 hours, one (1) enemy plane dropped HE bomb at vicinity of "A" Co CP two (2) EM KIA, two (") EM WIA. At 2300 hours Bn S.O. received phone message from APO V Corps that "B" Co would be relieved of all present attachments and attached to 82nd Airborne Division on 20 Dec 44.
- 20 Dec 44** - Received phone message from G-3 First Inf Div, giving route to WERBOMONT for "B" Co and time of departure (0800 hours) to join 82nd Airborne Division. "B" Co moved out at 0800 hours. At 0930 hours received information of attack in the 26th RCT sector - one (1) casualty (1 EM L&A "C" Co) by enemy artillery. With "B" Co detached 3rd Plt "A" Co was designated to remain in Bn Reserve with "C" Co supporting 26th RCT and "A" Co (less 3rd Plt) supporting 16th RCT to assemble vicinity WEISBERG - "A" Co closed in positions at 1400 hours. 3rd Plt "C" Co destroyed one (1) Mk V tank in positions.
- 21 Dec 44** - "B" Co CP located R-568985 attached to 82nd Airborne Division. 1st Plt attached 505th Para Inf Regt, located BAEFF-BODREUX R-642972. 2nd Plt "B" Co attached 504th Para Inf Regt, located BERNAGA K-635015. 3rd Plt "B" Co with Company Tns in Company Reserve located K-531004. (Report as of 202400 Dec 44 no report of contact with enemy---11 M36's operational).

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- 21 Dec 44 (cont'd) - "A" Co CP located K-888048 in direct support of 16th RGT no contact with enemy. 12 M-36's operational.
"C" Co CP located K-912041 in direct support of 26th RGT. Deepened defenses of Infantry against attack by 25th PGR of 12th SS Panzer Div. Received heavy artillery and mortar fire throughout the period. Two (2) EM LWA, one (1) EM evac, and one (1) EM remained for duty. One (1) 7/4 ton truck, two (2) 2 1/2 ton trucks and one (1) 1 1/2 ton truck jammed by artillery fire. 3rd Plt "C" Co destroyed one (1) Mk IV tank at K-924021. 12 M-36's operational.
Ron Co CP located K-855095 all platoons in close support of gun companies. No contact with enemy. No ammo expended.
- 22 Dec 44 - "A" Co no change during period. "C" Co destroyed one (1) Mk V Tank and one (1) Half-Track at about 0730 hours.
- 23 Dec 44 - Received message that 2nd Plt "B" Co had destroyed three (3) Half-Tracks with 20mm guns and two (2) Half-Tracks, Personnel Carriers and killed eight (8) enemy infantry on 21 Dec. Bn no change.
- 24 Dec 44 - 1st Plt "B" Co destroyed two (2) Mk V Tanks, 3rd Plt "B" Co destroyed one (1) Mk IV tank and one (1) Mk V Tank. Lq Co kitchen-truck driver firing alone, destroyed one (1) PW 190 vicinity of EUPRN at about 1400 hours. Received phone message at 1730 hours that Bn (less "B" and "C" Co's) would move to vicinity of SERBOMONT, be attached to XVIII Airborne Corps on 25 Dec 44. "C" Co to remain with First Infantry Division attached to 26th RGT. "B" Co to remain attached to 82nd Airborne Division.
- 25 Dec 44 - Bn (less "B", "C" and two guns from "A" Co) moved at 1300 hours, destination SERBOMONT. Arrived vicinity SERBOMONT at 1700 hours. Received information at that time that Battalion (less "C" Co) was attached to 82nd Airborne Division. One (1) Plt of Bn's was immediately attached to each of four (4) Regts. (3 Plts of "B" Co - 1 Plt "A" Co attached to Regts). Two (2) Plts "A" Co in Division Reserve.
- 26 Dec 44 - Reconnaissance of routes and positions were initiated at 0600 hours. Locations of troops as follows;
- Bn (-"A", "B", "C", Ron, Co's) via CHEVRON K-572006, with two (2) 4.2" guns of "A" Co).
 - "A" Co (-3rd Plt) via SERBOMONT K-573002.
 - 3rd Plt "A" Co via SERBOMONT P-580939.
 - "B" Co (-3 Plts) via SERBOMONT P-542959.
 - 1st Plt: 1st Sec P-541972.
 - 2nd Sec P-540100.
 - 2nd Plt: 1st Sec P-509985.
 - 2nd Sec P-542990.
 - 3rd Plt: 1st Sec P-508939.
 - 2nd Sec P-551912.
 - Ron Co (-1st & 2nd Plts) K-573007.
 - "C" Co attached First Infantry Division vicinity WILSON at K-910040. Two (2) guns of 1st Plt "A" Co joined "C" Co at 2000 hours this date. At end of period all platoons were in position and tied in with the Infantry.

8-K-O-K-E-T

27 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 - Period was spent in reconnaissance of positions and routes, coordination of defenses, and planning for possible future operations. No contact with enemy. All forward locations received sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire. On 30 Dec and 31 Dec 44 3rd Plt "B" Co assisted in Tank-Infantry-T.D. coordination training exercises.

For the Commanding Officer:

D. W. Seibert

D. W. SEIBERT,
Capt., 703rd TD Bn
3-3

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Incl no 3. to After Action Report, Hq 703rd TD Bn, dated 3 Jan 45.

HEADQUARTERS
703RD TANK DESTRUCTOR BATTALION : ~~SECRET~~ :
 : 703rd TD Bn :
 : :
 : 15 December 1944 :

15 December 1944

SUBJECT: 90mm firing tests.

TO : Commanding General, First United States Army.
(Attention: Artillery Sections).

1. On December 5 and 9, this Battalion conducted test firing of the 90mm gun on the M-36 tank destroyer against the frontal armor of the German M V Panther Tank. Results, conclusions and recommendations follow below.

2. On December 5, at a range of only 100 yards, two rounds of M382 hit the front glacis plate and both ricocheted, leaving a trough one inch deep and approximately six inches long. The third round of M382 struck at the exact junction of the top and bottom plates and did penetrate. The first round of M77 did not penetrate but did gouge a hole about two inches deep. The next round of M77 made a complete penetration and caused considerable interior damage. The Panther tank fired upon in this case had previously burned which may have affected the armor.

3. On December 9, more test firing was performed on another Panther tank that had not burned. Range was 300 yards.

- a. First round - M77 - complete hole was made but nose of round lodged. First drive of the tank was sluggish but no crew casualties and none occurred.
- b. Second round - M382 - striking at about complete penetration which would have caused crew casualties.
- c. Third round - M77 - striking at exact junction of turret ring and hull on right side, complete penetration would have neutralized the turret and interior crew casualties.
- d. Fourth round - M77 - striking at exact curve base of gun shield, round did not penetrate but cracked the shield to such an extent that the turret could have been displaced.
- e. Fifth round - M382 - struck the gun shield on right side. The shield, badly weakened by round number number 4, was completely shattered, and the round entered the turret causing considerable damage.

4. In both cases, the destroyer was sited higher than the tank, which had the slight advantage of a glacis slope, thereby giving the 90mm gun an advantage over normal situations.

5. Conclusions:

- a. That the above results do not agree with those published in First Army Artillery, which other service, July 1944, listing a penetration at 800 yards with M77, which is considered far from certainty.
- b. That the two tests were not conclusive as to the better ammunition. In the first test, M77 at least did not ricochet and the round did penetrate, whereas both rounds of M382 ricocheted. However, in the second test M382 penetrated, whereas the M77 lodged.

5. Conclusions: (cont'd)

- g. That destroyers must continue to seek positions affording flanking shots on Panther Tanks; however, if frontal engagements occur, that at least two destroyers rapidly engage the tank hoping for at least one penetration.**
- d. That the 90mm gun will not penetrate the frontal armor of the new Tiger II Tank at any range.**

6. Recommendations:

- a. That the APC ammunition with a muzzle velocity of 2850 F/3 and a greater penetrating quality be made available.**
- b. That Ordnance, instead of increasing the caliber of anti-tank guns, increase the powder charge instead in a manner similar to the German method on their 7.5 cm and 8.8 cm guns, since it is believed that both of the above German guns has greater penetrating qualities than the 90mm gun.**
- c. That the HVAP, 90mm, be made available if Ordnance tests prove its worth.**
- d. That the results of these and all other tests with the 90mm gun be disseminated to all tank destroyer battalions equipped with the 90mm gun.**

/s/ W. W. SHULTER,
W. E. SHULTER
Lt. Col, 703rd TD Bn,
Commanding.

Incl No 4, to After Action Report, Hq 703d TD Bn, dated 3 Jan 45.

ENEMY MATERIEL DESTROYED

1. The following is a compilation of enemy materiel destroyed, since this Battalion has first engaged the enemy on 9 July 44 to 31 Dec 44.

	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT DESTROYED</u>
a.	<u>Tanks and SP Guns</u>	
	22 Kw V	26
	22 Kw IV	15
	22 Kw III	3
	70mm Gun on 22 Kw IV Chassis	14
	75mm Howitzer on M/T Chassis	1
b.	<u>Transport</u>	
	General Purpose	42
	Heavy Trucks	20
	Half Trucks	21
	Motorcycles	2
	Horse-drawn wagons	7
	Half-truck w/200mm flak guns	3
c.	<u>Towed Guns</u>	
	150mm Howitzer	3
	100mm Howitzer	1
	Towed anti-tank guns	11
d.	<u>Aircraft</u>	
	Me 190	1
e.	<u>Enemy Installations</u>	
	pill box (12" concrete wall)	5
	mortar emplacement	2
	pill box	1

For the Commanding Officer:

D. W. SPIBERT,
 Capt., 703rd TD Bn
 S-3