

HEADQUARTERS
77TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

1 March 1945

SUBJECT : After Battle Report, February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, XX Corps, APO 340, US Army (thru channels)

1 February 1945 found the Battalion with the companies employed as follows: Company "B" continued to furnish anti-mechanized protection for the north flank of the Corps area in the 94th Infantry Division zone. The 1st Platoon of Company "A" supported the 1st Battalion of the 301st Infantry Regiment in its assault on Campholz Woods (0602). This platoon fired 43 rounds of H. E. and 36 rounds of A.P.C., neutralizing two (2) enemy pillboxes and one (1) dugout and destroying one (1) enemy machine emplacement, with an estimated three enemy killed.

Company "C" was attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group with two platoons employed on the secondary mission of supporting fire of the 241st F. A. Bn. One section of the 3rd Platoon was placed in position on the west bank of the Saar River and prepared to fire on order on enemy pillboxes on the opposite bank of the river.

The Silver Star Medal was presented to 1st Lt. CHARLES L. SMITH, Company "B", by General GEORGE S. PATTON for gallantry in action.

On 2 February 1945, 1st Platoon, Company "A", in position in the vicinity of Borg, Germany (062007), continued its support of the 1st Battalion, 301st Infantry by neutralizing one pillbox and one dugout during the attack and destroying another pillbox. 49 rounds of H. E. and 47 rounds of A.P.C. ammunition were expended in this operation. One section of the 3rd Platoon of Company "C", from positions in the vicinity of Fremersdorf (210901) fired 22 rounds of A.P.C., penetrating and probably destroying one enemy pillbox on the west bank of the Saar River. The 1st and 2nd Platoons continued their secondary mission in support of the 241st F. A. Battalion, firing 52 rounds of H. E. and 34 rounds of illuminating shell. (Sergeant James Lucas, Company "B", was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic services.)

Due to weather conditions and poor visibility on the 3rd of February, 1945, 1st Platoon of Company "A", was unable to fire on pillboxes in the vicinity of Campholz Woods (0602). However, this platoon continued to transport supplies and evacuate wounded from this sector by use of armored vehicles. One section of the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", fired 80 rounds of A.P.C. and 30 rounds of H. E. with T105 fuse on 10 enemy pillboxes on the east bank of the Saar in the vicinity of Fremersdorf (201901). All pillboxes were destroyed and three enemy machine gun emplacements were destroyed. Upon completion of this mission this Section was withdrawn under cover of darkness and placed in reserve in the vicinity of the Company G. P.

The 1st and 2nd Platoons of Company "C" continued supporting fires of the 241st F. A. Battalion, firing 120 rounds of H. E. on harrassing missions. Artillery reported that the 34 rounds of illuminating shell fire on the preceding night lighted the target area excellently. The Company Commander of Company "C" reported that the pillboxes in this area were not as strongly constructed as those in the Saarlautern area. Penetration in one case was achieved with two rounds of H. E. with T105 fuse.



Captain JAMES D. BUTLER, Company Commander, Co. "A", was killed in action in Campholz Woods on the 4th of February. The 1st and 2nd Platoons, Co. "C", continued on secondary mission in support of the 241st F. A. Bn., firing 120 rounds of H. E. and 3 rounds illuminating ammunition on harrassing missions.

Pvt. MARTIN F. KELLY, Co. "C", was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Capt. JOSEPH W. MOON, Co. "B", Pvt. CARL R. RESIG, Co. "C" and Sgt CARL PARSONS, Co. "B", were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic services.



Companies "A" and "B" on 5 February 1945, continued to provide anti-mechanized protection in the Division zone. Co. "A" neutralized two enemy pillboxes and assisted in repulsing an enemy counter-attack in the northeast section of the Campholz Woods by direct fire with H. E. ammunition, expending 15 rounds A.F.C. and 27 rounds of H. E. during the period. Co. "C", attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group, expended 34 rounds of H. E. and one round illuminating in harrassing fires on targets east of Saer River.

On 6 February 1945, Co.'s "A" and "B" continued their anti-mechanized protection in Division zone. Co. "C" expended 90 rounds of H. E. in harrassing fires. This Company was relieved from attachment to the 3rd Cavalry Group and reverted to Battalion control at 2100.

On 7 February 1945, Co. "A" expended 132 rounds of H. E., 12 rounds A.F.C. at pillboxes, shelters and gun positions east and northeast of the Campholz Woods. Co. "C" expended 16 rounds H. E. in harrassing missions on targets east of Saer River and having been detached from its assignment, closed into assembly area at 1400. 1st Recon Platoon apprehended one P. W., a deserter in Rustreff.

On 8 February 1945, 2nd Platoon of Co. "C" occupied positions in the vicinity of Hais (019051). 1st Recon Platoon established O. P. and security O. P.'s in same vicinity. Co. "A" expended 22 rounds H. E. on enemy O. P. artillery and mortar positions and 2 enemy were known killed. All other elements of the Battalion remained unchanged.

For the period 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 February 1945 there was no situation change, the Battalion continuing to furnish anti-mechanized protection in zone of 91st Inf. Div.

On 14 February 1945, two platoons of Co. "C" were placed in position north of Kerschweiler (048967) in support of 919th F. A. Bn. The remainder of the Battalion continued anti-mechanized defense of the Division zone. Three half-track vehicles, Co. "C", continued to transport supplies to forward elements of the Division.

On 15 February two platoons of Co. "C", supporting 919th F. A. Bn., fired 562 rounds of H. E., assisting in artillery preparation preceding the infantry attack north of Borg (062006). 1st Platoon, Co. "B", fired 399 rounds of H. E. on the towns of Munsingen (085046) and Kirf (091066). 1st Platoon of Co. "A" fired 16 rounds H. E. on machine gun emplacements. The Battalion continued to furnish anti-mechanized defense in the 91st Div. zone on 16 February. 1st Platoon of Co. "A" destroyed two (2) Mark IV tanks and one (1) 8.1 gun believed immobilized by artillery north of Borg (062006). 12 rounds of H. E. and 31 rounds of A.F.C. were fired at a range of approximately 1600 yards to accomplish destruction. 1st Platoon of Co. "C", in support of 919th F. A. Bn., expended 15 rounds of illuminating shell to light artillery target area.

Major EDWARD J. D. LEASE, M/Sgt JOHN E. PETERSON and Sgt FRANK CROSS were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

On 17 and 18 February the Battalion continued anti-mechanized defense of Division zone.

On 19 February, two platoons of Company "B" and two platoons of Company "C" assisted in artillery preparation for the Division attack to seize routes thru the Siegfried switch over which the 10th Armored Division could launch an attack to clear the Saar-Moselle triangle. Company "B" expended 655 rounds and Company "C" expended 572 rounds, H. E., during this operation. Upon the seizure of the Division's initial objective one platoon of Company "A" was placed in position on high ground north of Borg (062006). Two platoons of Company "C" were placed in position on north flank of Division, one platoon in the vicinity of Sims (057045) and one platoon in the vicinity of Borg (062006). Company "A" captured one (1) P. W.

There was no change in disposition of the companies on 20th of February.

On 21 February, as the 9th Infantry Division continued its attack to the east towards the Saar River, Company "A" displaced forward to positions in the vicinity of Freudenburg (121055), Weiton (135041) and Faha (096037). No change in disposition of Company "B" and Company "C" occurred. Company "A" captured one (1) P. W.

Pfc ROLAND J. BRASSARD, Company "A", was killed by a German land mine in the vicinity of Borg, Germany (062006).

Captain CARL A. BLACK, S/Sgt DONNIS E. FIELDS and Sgt WESLEY R. STREETMAN, the latter two of Company "B", were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

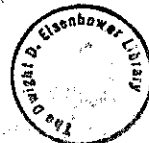
On 22 February Company "A" was placed in direct support of 301st Infantry, Company "B" was placed in direct support of 302nd Infantry for the river crossing operations of these two regiments in the vicinity of Serrig (161091). Company "A" assembled in the vicinity of Weiton (135041), Company "B" in the vicinity of Ober Fremersdorf (0104980) to cross Saar River on Division order. Company "C", in general support, prepared to reinforce Division Artillery fires, assembled in the vicinity of Kirf (091066). Battalion C. P. closed in Kustruff (034946) and opened in Kollersleuken (1106). First and Second Reconnaissance Platoons assembled in vicinity of Battalion C. P. Battalion Rear Echelon closed in Sierck (004946) and opened in Borg (062006). Company "A" captured one (1) P. W.

On 23 February the Battalion continued in support of the 9th Division. Companies maintained close liaison with supported units and prepared to cross into bridgehead area on Division order.

On 24 February the 3rd Platoon, Company "A" was placed in position on high ground in vicinity of Kastel (149080) to cover approaches to Serrig (1609) from the east. This platoon fired 13 rounds H. E. at target believed to be camouflaged vehicle. Burst destroyed camouflage and revealed enemy pillbox. Remainder of the Battalion remained assembled and prepared to cross into bridgehead. The Battalion C. P. remained in Kollersleuken (110600)

The Battalion remained unchanged on 25 February except that Company "B" moved to new assembly area in vicinity of Weiton (135041).

Major STEVE M. GULLENS and Sgt GORDON B. HORSFORD were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.



On 26 February the Battalion remained in assembly positions.

On 27 February, Company "B" and Battalion Rear Echelon moved to new assembly area of Tresem (125093).

On 28 February, Battalion C. P. closed in vicinity of Kollaslaiken (1106) and opened in Samburg (115128). Captain JOSEPH W. ROED returned to duty with the Battalion.

Effective this date the Battalion is converted from Towed to Self-propelled. Company "C" was attached to 3rd Cavalry Group and further attached to 3rd Cavalry Squadron, moving to new assembly area in Freudenberg (131055).

COMR D. R. STURGES
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

