

HEADQUARTERS 805TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464, United States Army

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

MARCH 1945

The month opened with the Battalion (-gun) attached to the 91st Infantry Division (Operations only) and further attached to the 752 Tank Battalion. All gun companies and Recon Co were in the line with the latter attached to 91st Recon Bn, acting as Infantry vicinity Highway #64. A, B, and C Companies occupied direct fire positions across the division sector (Idice River Valley), with one platoon of B Company attached to the 85th Infantry Division on our right. Maintenance of M-18's continues by rotation of vehicles singly or in pairs from their firing positions to Battalion Maintenance for 100 hour check.

- 1 Mar The only firing for this period was 3 rds of HE by A Company to adjust on Gargagnano. A fire started in the area (913333). There was a slight increase in artillery and mortar fire from the enemy during the night. No casualties within the Battalion however.
- 2 Mar Company A fired 30 rds direct fire at enemy installations (913333) in support of 361st Infantry Regiment. B and C Companies continued to operate OPs at 963312 and 943321.
- 3 Mar Weather continues to be good and visibility good. Company A fired 71 rds HE direct fire at enemy OP (964327), AT gun (921338) and strong point (913333). Hits were observed on targets and observer at OP believed knocked out. Company A also fired 42 rds HE on dugout (872338). Five hits were observed on dugout and a fire was started. Battalion received an ammunition allocation for period 021800 March to 101800 March - 400 rds 76mm. OP-21 (B Co) reports tank firing from vic 972338. Eight (8) rds light artillery fell near Battalion OP at 1800H. at 1835A approximately 73 rds artillery landed on ridge (A Co 2nd pl). No damage or casualties. Before the period closed A Company fired 16 rds HE at 913338 and 920333 in support of raid on enemy strong points. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy by our troops and 3 prisoners were taken.
- 4 Mar The Battalion continues in its mission and continues maintenance check of all vehicles. Enemy OP and personnel reported by OP-21 at 96023819 and at 917373. Enemy activity also noted at 964307 and 966387. Recon Company moved rear installations to vicinity Ligaro on Highway #6420 and vehicles to Prato. They are still attached to 91st Cav Recon Bn.
- 5 Mar At 1100H C Company OP reported gun firing from 953384. C Company reported 10 rds medium caliber artillery at their OP (934397). A Company fired 47 rds direct fire at enemy OP and dugouts vicinity 882333. Enemy activity consisted of intermittent and scattered artillery, mortar and M fire throughout the period.
- 6 Mar Weather continued clear with visibility good. A Company fired 44 rds direct fire on enemy OPs in dugout (882333, 873331), suspected AT gun (914334). Hits were observed on targets. Scattered enemy activity reported by our OPs.

- 7 Mar A Company continued its daily harassing of the enemy by firing 58 rds direct fire on enemy OPs at 952338 and in dugouts at 944334. Hits were observed on the former and the dugouts were destroyed. OP-21 reported mortar fire from 952338 and 95153405.
- 8 Mar Good weather and visibility afforded all companies a chance to locate targets of opportunity and bring fire on them. A Company fired 31 rds HE on MG at 907334, and enemy activity at 913333; 39 rds HE at enemy SP at 942341 (effect unknown); and 29 rds HE during night in support of raid by 363 Infantry Regiment. B Company fired 31 rds HE on Hill 371 (952338), enemy positions at 95263360 and 958338. Area well covered. C Company fired 7 rds direct fire in support of 363 Infantry at 957329. Battalion OPs report scattered enemy activity throughout the period. SP reported firing from 95103385. B Company second platoon received fire from vicinity G. Collina (999337). 85th Infantry Division notified us that B Company 1st Platoon will be returned to Battalion on 13 March. Ren was relieved from its sector on the line and moved to 113207 at 080000. B Company personnel manning 3 TDs on Monte Grande will be relieved when the American Infantry comes out.
- 9 Mar A Company, 2d Platoon fired 17 rds HE on enemy OP at 944334. C Company, 2d Platoon fired 29 rds HE and 8 APC on dugout and enemy personnel at 953338. 12 hits observed on dugout. Operation of OPs continued.
- 10 Mar Ren Company returned to duty on the line still attached to 91st Recon Sqdn. A Company fired 57 rds HE and 2 rds APC on enemy OPs, bunkers, dug-in positions and house, at 809339, 870340, 891341, 892338, 890339. Hits on all targets. Bunkers and OPs destroyed. B and C Companies continued to operate Battalion OPs. Ammunition allocation for period 101800 to 201800 is 900 rds 76mm.
- 11 Mar No firing during this period. Battalion continued maintenance program. Ren Company CP moved to 936174 as of 120100. OPs report slight enemy activity.
- 12 Mar A Company fired 61 rds HE on personnel (947342), occupied buildings (912343, 953338), and bunkers at 938338. Hits were observed on all targets and houses were partially destroyed.
- 13 Mar A Company fired 35 rds HE direct fire on MG and mortar position at 94353364; MG silenced. B Company moved 1 TD (4th pit provisional) from vicinity 997330 to 910820. Remaining two TDs failed to start and were reported to supporting ordnance. 1st Platoon B Company released to Battalion and Company control from 83th Infantry Division and reported to battalion Rear for maintenance.
- 14 Mar 2d Platoon B Company fired 48 rds HE and 1 APC direct fire at enemy bunker (892338), enemy point (884332), and MG (923339). Hits were observed on targets and a fire started at bunker. Weather continues to be excellent. Visibility good, and roads in the area suitable for movement to any locality.
- 15 Mar A Company 2d Platoon fired 39 rds HE direct fire at enemy bunker (892-338), OP (889330), and dugout (886335). Hits scored on targets and fire started at bunker. Ren Company 1st and 3rd Platoons attached to 804 TD (2nd Co) and 91st Cav Recon Sqdn.

- 16 Mar A Company evacuated one TD from Monte Grande (997330) to Battalion Rear (910220).
- 17 Mar A Co fired 58 rds HE and 2 rds APC at Enemy occupied houses (903353, 921328), and strong point (913379). B Company fired 19 rds HE at Enemy dugout (942335) and OP (964337). Hits were observed on all targets.
- 18 Mar Weather continues clear and visibility and observation good. A Company 2d Platoon fired 58 rds HE direct fire at enemy occupied houses (892338, 889338, 891345, 889336), OPs (890340, 893345), and dugouts (88903385). Hits were observed on all targets. A Company moved 1 TD from 910220 to 906315. Operation of Battalion OPs continued. C Company had one TD knocked out by mortar at 180000.
- 19 Mar A Company fired 106 rds HE and 6 APC direct fire on enemy bunkers (933-338, 892338, 8793330, 881332) and strong point (879327). Hits were observed on targets. C Company fired 46 rds HE and 1 rd APC at Enemy gun position (943348) and dugouts (943343). Area was well covered. Company C CP destroyed 4 rds medium caliber artillery at 1425A. 608 radio temporarily out of action until HT is repaired. At 0400 2d Platoon was attacked by enemy. Attack was repulsed and Company suffered 1 casualty, slight. Relief of elements of 91st Infantry Division by elements of Legione Group (Italian) was begun during the night of 18-19 March with 3rd Battalion 362 Infantry Regiment being relieved by 1st Battalion 68 Infantry Regiment at 190000.
- 20 Mar Enemy force of approximately 15 men assaulted positions of Ren Company (775280) at 200000. Enemy repelled without damage to ourselves. Estimated enemy casualties - light. A Company fired 120 rds HE on enemy movement (933335), dugouts and bunkers (879327, 882332, 883332, 885333, 907336) and suspected OPs (913338, 951336). Bunkers were hit and dugouts destroyed. C Company fired 40 rds HE at Enemy OP and dugouts on Hill 363 (933335). Hits were observed. B Company moved two TDs to vicinity Castelvencio to relieve two others for maintenance check-up. Ammunition allocation for period 201800A to 201800 is 1200 rds 76mm. Relief of 362 Infantry Regiment by 68 Infantry Regiment - continued. Latter assumed command of sector.
- 21 Mar C Company fired 30 rds HE and 8 APC, direct fire, at Enemy OP in dugout (937332), Casette (943332) and Hill 363 (933335). Hits observed on targets. Battalion was granted permission from 91st Infantry Division to relieve one company from the line for rest and maintenance, provided other companies fill in vacated firing positions. Enemy artillery continued to be slight, with two rounds in vicinity Battalion CP at 1530A. At 0300A Ren Company again attacked by small enemy force, which was driven off without casualties to either side. Company relieved during the night. Occupies new positions vicinity 78237A.
- 22 Mar The relief of Company C by elements of A and B Companies was completed by 2130A. Company C moved to new area (914324) and closed at 230700A. A Company fired 200 rds HE direct fire at OPs in dugouts (935335, 913-333, 881332, 884333, 886335, 888335, 890340, 889335, 944335), occupied houses (889333, 881330, 919335). Hits observed on targets and some dugouts destroyed. B Company assumed control of OP-21 in addition to OP-22. Relief of 362nd and 363rd Infantry Regiments by 68th Infantry Regiment and speciala Regiment completed with relief of last elements of 363rd Regiment by speciala Regiment at 2135A.

- 23 Mar Battalion established liaison with one Battalion of Spéciale Regiment at Samadial. A Company fired 49 rds HE and 5 APC direct fire on suspected enemy tank (935339) and enemy dugouts (918337). Three hits observed on suspected tank and hits observed on dugouts. Company C initiated rehabilitation and training program and sent two (2) TDs to II Corps Armored Gunnery and Communications School.
- 24 Mar A Company fired 63 rds HE direct fire at Enemy OPs and dug-in positions vicinity 913333, 922342, and occupied house 912343. Hits scored on targets and house destroyed. B Company fired 35 rds HE direct fire at enemy MGs 912337 and dugouts (918337). Area well covered.
- 25 Mar A Company fired 34 rds HE at enemy dugout (913333) and enemy positions (933335, 933338). Hits observed. B Company at request of the Italian Infantry, fired 21 rds HE on personnel at 933347. Ceased fire when Italians were contacted by other troops that troops were friendly.
- 26 Mar A Co fired 98 rds HE direct fire at enemy occupied house (912343), MG (920336), dugouts (913333, 914334, 922342, 919339). MG silenced, dugouts and house partially destroyed. Company then fired 17 rds at 913-333 in support of infantry raid.
- 27 Mar A Co fired 64 rds HE on enemy strong points vicinity 913334, 914334, 912343. Hits observed on all targets. B Company fired 36 rds HE, 2 rds APC direct fire at enemy MG and dugouts via 944338, 947329, 951-337. Hits observed on all targets. Company also continued to operate OPs at 903312 and 945321. Enemy artillery fire continued light and harassing in nature, with approximately 13 rds in vicinity 914397.
- 28 Mar A Co fired 73 rds HE on enemy dug-in positions vicinity 898336, 918335, 914336, 912343, 918337. Hits observed on all targets and two dugouts destroyed. B Company fired 14 rds HE at dugouts vicinity 944338. Area well covered.
- 29 Mar B Company fired 25 rds HE at enemy positions vicinity 944338, 951337. Hits observed.
- 30 Mar A Company fired 87 rds HE direct fire at enemy positions vicinity 913333, 920335, 935337, 916338, 883333, and 879326. Hits observed on all targets. B Company was relieved in position by C Company and moved to 916216 for rest and maintenance. Relief was completed at 2130h.
- 31 Mar As the month closed the Battalion was still on line with A, C and Ron Companies on line and B Company back for maintenance and re-equipping of personnel. A Company continued its firing by placing 64 rds HE direct fire at a suspected SP (916338) and at enemy positions (889336 and 889335). Hits were observed on all areas. Ron Company continued to act as infantry with the 91st Cav Reg sqdn. Maintenance has progressed to the point that combat efficiency of the Battalion is now considered excellent as we prepare for the coming offensive.

Henry M. Caruthers
 HENRY M. CARUTHERS JR.,
 Major, Infantry,
 Commanding.