

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 758, US Army
22 April 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History of 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion
for period 01 February to 28 February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U Army

1. Enclosed herewith battalion history of this organization
for the period of 01 February to 28 February 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

WYNDEN D. LAYTON
1st Lt., I.A.
Adj.

6 Inclosures:

- 1 - Annex "A" - Narrative Account of Operations (4 copies)
- 2 - Annex "B" - Original Unit (4 copies)
- 3 - Annex "C" - Strength - Commissioned and Enlisted Men (4 copies)
- 4 - Annex "D" - Losses in Action - Officers and Men (4 copies)
- 5 - Annex "E" - Unit Journal and Attached Data (1 copy)
- 6 - Annex "F" - Supporting Material (4 copies) and Inclosures

HEADQUARTERS
324th Tank Battalion (Allied)

AGO 758, US Army
22 April 1945

Monthly Activity Report of the 324th Tank Battalion
from 01 February 1945

With the 100th Infantry Division maintaining active defense of its zone South and West of ALLIER, France, the month of February was characterized by virtually static AF defenses with minimum movement and displacement. All threats of enemy armored attack within the Division sector materialized at no time during this period with consequently no engagement in direct fire action. In its secondary mission of reinforcing division artillery fires, the battalion gave considerable and effective support to the 100th Division Artillery, firing nightly harassing and interdictory missions.

The beginning of this period (01 February 1945) found "C" Company well dug in for AF defense on the Division left flank. Positions on the old Maginot line were utilized to command excellent fields of fire on the possible avenue of approach of enemy armor in this sector. "B" Company was employed in depth in AF defense positions along the Division center. The company's 3rd platoon guns were in indirect fire positions performing nightly missions of harassing and interdictory fire. Direct fire positions prepared for emergency occupation by the 3rd platoon provided additional depth for the AF defenses in this sector. The platoons of "A" Company (minus 2 guns) having just completed occupation of AF defense positions on the Division right flank from 1250 G (4740 540) to 70 1250 G (4750 420), SAARLEMBERG (4774 413), WEISBERG (4720 407) and 4706 (4706 400) were primarily engaged in improving their new positions and tying in with the adjacent infantry units. At SAARLEMBERG and 70 1250 G the third platoons guns were dug in forward of road blocks on the Division outpost line of resistance. Due to the vulnerability of the position to enemy ground troops it was necessary to place trip mines and booby traps along the perimeter as a defensive measure.

In the subsequent period, the primary activity other than the alert manning of guns, consisted of active maintenance and improvement of gun positions.

On 02 February two guns in the 1st platoon of "A" Company were withdrawn from AF positions displacing to indirect fire positions Southwest of 4690 (4690 440) to support the fires of the 374th Field Artillery Battalion with nightly interdictory and harassing missions. They operated under the FDC of the 374th Field Artillery Battalion. The guns received counter-battery fire on 08 February with neither damage or injury to the guns or crews. During the night of 02 February a 3rd platoon gun crew in SAARLEMBERG detected and captured an enemy patrol of four at the gun position. On the following day two members of the gun crew were wounded by enemy mortar fire on this position. On the 9th of February "A" Company once more was in possession of twelve guns. The two guns replaced by ordnance were temporarily used to replace guns requiring mechanical servicing.

Hq, 824th AP Bn, sub: "Narrative Account of Battalion Operations (cont).

On 11 February "D" Company was given the mission of reconnoitering for and occupying AT positions from which direct fire support could be rendered to the 44th Division (on the left flank of the 100th Infantry Division) during a projected offensive action. The guns were to occupy positions from which fire could be directed against any armored counter-attack from the vicinity of RIMING (4655 554) and LAUREL BUSH (4695 572). This was accomplished on the 15th of February under cover of darkness by two guns from the 2nd platoon moving into positions west of HERRVILL (4687 532) and (4688 537). The 3rd platoon stood by prepared to fire indirect fire missions on call in support of this planned operation. With the operation completed and no armor counter-attack materializing the alerted guns were not brought into action.

On the 17th of February two additional guns from the 2nd platoon of "B" Company occupied indirect fire positions Southwest of LAUREL at (4722 483) to reinforce divisional artillery fires. In positions relatively close to the Division front lines the guns fired high angle fire with HE reduced charge ammunition. For the subsequent period the two guns performed interdiction and harassing fire missions with targets in the vicinity of RIMING.

On the night of February 18th at the request of the Division artillery "B" Company fired four rounds of illuminating shells at RIMING (4700 751) with successful results.

Other than the indirect fire mission performed by eight of the battalion guns the remainder of the period saw no action. In the course of the month 7,096 rds of HE, 1,306 rds HHC, 110 rds HHC, 21 rds smoke and 8 rds of illuminating shell had been expended by guns firing artillery missions. Substituting HHC for regular smoke ammunition met with failure on several occasions when air OP failed to pick up rounds during registrations. It was concluded that the ammunition had deteriorated to such a degree that it failed to function properly. Targets for the period centered chiefly around VOLLMONSTER, SCHNEEBACH, HERRVILL and HITCHER.

Reconnaissance platoons provided active and valuable assistance to the companies in the performance of their missions. These duties consisted primarily of maintaining constant liaison with forward infantry elements and division organic AT units, sweeping roads for mines, reconnoitering routes of ingress and egress to gun positions, assisting "C" Company in reconnoitering for direct fire positions in support of the 44th Division offensive operations, manning OPs and checking map data on friendly mine fields with ground reconnaissance. The efficient performance of these missions lent greater effectiveness to the companies in their AT defense role.

HEADQUARTERS
82nd Airborne Division A. L. ALLEN

753 3rd Army
22 April 1945

ORIGINAL UNIT

- (1) Designation - 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed)
- (2) Date of organization - August 10, 1942.
- (3) Place of organization - Camp Gruber, Oklahoma
- (4) Authority for organization - Headquarters, Third Army
General Order Number 81
dated 27 July 1942.
- (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained -
Draftees and transfers from other organizations.

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

22 April 1945
SAC 753, 75 Army

STRENGTH - Commissioned and Unlisted

- (1) At beginning of period - 31 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers
725 Enlisted Men
- (2) Net increase during period - 0 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers
8 Enlisted Men (ACU)
- (3) Net decrease during period - 0 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers
16 Enlisted Men
- (4) At end of period - 31 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers
717 Enlisted Men

ANNEX "C"

REMARKS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 758, US Army
22 April 1945

LOSSES IN ACTION FOR FEBRUARY - Officers and Enlisted Men

KILLED

None

WOUNDED

Coforth, Eugene B.

Pvt 38573082

C Co

ANNEX "D"

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AG 754, US Army
22 April 1945

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

OVERLAYS

1. Battalion positions (Anti-tank and Indirect fire) in Divisional section with changes (5 enclosures).
2. Company Daily Operations Reports for the month of February 1945.

ANNEX #7*