

HEADQUARTERS  
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 758, US Army  
06 April 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History of 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion  
for period of 01 January to 31 January 1945.

THRU : Commanding General, VI Corps, APO 46, US Army.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, US Army.

1. Enclosed herewith battalion history of this organization  
for the period of 01 January to 31 January 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

RUGER D MAYNDS  
1st Lt., P.A.  
Adj.

6 Incls:

- 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" - Bronze Star Awards (4 copies)
- 6 - Annex "F" - Supporting Material (4 copies) Enclosures

HEADQUARTERS  
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AFO 758, US Army  
06 April 1945

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF BATTALION OPERATIONS  
MONTH OF JANUARY 1945

At the beginning of the year the CPs of the Battalion were located as follows- Battalion CP - LAVERGNE, France (Q685 440), "A" Company CP - LUDWIG, Germany (Q277 655), "B" Company CP - MAL HOFF, France (Q637 571), "C" Company CP - KUCHENBERG, France (Q710 462), Rear Echelon - SAINT, France (Q706 400).

On the last day of 1944, while "A" Company was with the 106th Cavalry Group at LUDWIG, Germany, the number one gun of the 3rd platoon commanded by Sgt Mc Intosh was fired upon by enemy 88mm direct fire. A shell struck the squad's half-track, disabling the vehicle and killing the gunner and half-track driver. Endangered by enemy infantry and forced to withdraw, the gun crew put the gun out of action before abandoning it.

01 January. The Battalion minus "A" Company continued operations under the 100th Infantry Division. "A" Company was attached to the 106th Cavalry Group. The 3rd platoon as a result of enemy action, was placed in temporary reserve in the vicinity of ST AVANT. The 1st and 2nd platoons reconnoitered for indirect fire positions. In the morning, the 1st platoon moved into defense positions North of SAINT, France (Q636 900). The 3rd platoon received enemy artillery fire. Enemy artillery hit a quarter-ton vehicle of "C" Company at the railroad crossing in LAVERGNE, France. The driver, a member of a security squad, was killed and the vehicle completely destroyed. "C" Company reconnoitered for positions for possible future occupation, to provide support and depth to "B" Company's positions.

02 January. The enemy offensive action of previous day having brought them up to positions in vicinity of SAINT MAL, about 2 to 3 kilometers from SAINT, constituted a threat to our rear installation. The situation warranted immediate withdrawal and at 0200 hours 02 January the installation cleared SAINT in its displacement to new quarters in LAVERGNE. The platoons of "A" Company had displaced rearward, 1 sec of 1st platoon and the 2nd platoon took up positions for indirect fire. The subsequent period was characterized by relative inactivity with generally few changes for "B" and "C" Companies.

03 January. The 3rd platoon of "A" Company moved into indirect fire positions. Due to enemy threat the 2nd platoon was forced to displace to a new position. The CP and all platoons of "A" Company sustained heavy artillery fire. One casualty resulted from this action.

04 January. "A" Company fired their first indirect fire missiles in support of the 106th Cavalry Group. The company reconnoitered in, expending 4 rounds of smoke and 26 rounds of HE. "A" Company sustained heavy enemy artillery fire which disabled a half-track. The Battalion CP moved to

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

RAYZILLER, France (Q637 395) on 04 January. This was in keeping with change of division boundaries when the 36th Division took over part of the sector.

From the 5th of January to the 10th of January, "A" Company fired harassing and interdiction fire missions expending a total of 1500 rounds of HE on these missions. "D" Company, 1st and 3rd platoons received intermittent artillery fire with the 2nd platoon weathering intensive mortar and artillery fire. Three quarter-tons were disabled from this enemy action.

06 January. The 2nd and 3rd platoons of "B" Company again received harassing enemy mortar fire.

07 January. The Division Artillery called upon "B" Company to fire a mission of illuminating shells over FRIEDENBERG FIELDS (Q750 513) which were part of the Maginot defenses. The success of this mission was marked by a call of TOT fire by the forward observer.

08 January. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company suffered two casualties from enemy direct fire. The 3rd platoon fired 48 rounds of APC, hit and knocked out one tank. One casualty was sustained as a result of enemy fire, which was also responsible for knocking out one three inch gun. During the morning the withdrawal of friendly troops from the vicinity of 2nd section of the 2nd platoon forced the abandonment of the two guns, which were later retrieved.

09 January. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired on two enemy half-tracks and knocked them out. An undetermined number of enemy personnel were in the vehicles. All platoons of "B" Company were under intensive mortar and artillery fire. The guns that were abandoned on 08 January by "B" Company, now 300 yards forward of the front lines, were extricated during the hours of darkness and aided by blowing snow. The danger involved in retrieving guns resulted in awards of Bronze stars to personnel responsible. (See Annex E).

10 January. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company moved out of GUIRING, France (Q657 528) and took up new AT defense positions in vicinity (Q655 508). The 3rd platoon moved into positions of readiness in the vicinity of BOHRBACH, France. The company CP moved to BIRING, France (Q648 488). "C" Company's 1st section of the 1st platoon moved into AT defense positions Northwest of SIERSHAL (Q716 495). The Battalion CP closed out of RAYZILLER, France and opened DIEM-RINKEN, France (Q600 385).

11 January. "A" Company was released from the 106th Cavalry Group and attached to the 44th Division to operate under the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion. "A" Company relieved "B" Company of the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The company CP opened at SARRIGUINES. Platoons were enroute to new positions.

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

12 January. All guns of "A" Company had occupied AT defense positions. "B" and "C" Companies maintained and improved their positions.

13 January. "A" Company CP moved to JARPENSHING. The 3rd platoon occupied direct fire positions at GROS REDERCHING (Q622 424) to cover likely tank threat approaches. "B" Company, 1st and 2nd platoons received enemy rocket and artillery fire, including air bursts.

15 January. The number 2 gun of the 3rd platoon of "A" Company prepared to move under cover of darkness to direct fire positions which were prepared by Division Engineers (Q612 539). In preparation for this undertaking the gun commander, part of the crew, and a detail from the pioneer platoon of the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion enroute to aforementioned position to make further improvement prior to occupation, ran into an unguarded minefield. The vehicle struck a mine and drew friendly fire. The incident resulted in three casualties. The number 2 gun, 3rd platoon of "B" Company moved into alternate position to perform illuminating shell fire mission on call from 100th Division Artillery.

16 January. The third platoons of "A" and "B" Companies were alerted for possible enemy thrust and attack at GROS REDERCHING, the probable enemy objective (based on PW reports). At this time the Battalion started plans for training men on SPs with the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

17 January. The 1st gun of the 2nd platoon of "A" Company took up new AT defense position (Q537 582). One gun of the 3rd platoon fired 18 illuminating shells during the night.

18 January. The number 2 gun of the 3rd platoon of "B" Company moved into an indirect fire position (Q631 471) and registered in on base point (Q6584 5542) scoring 5 hits out 12 and routed the enemy out of house causing possible casualties. The first platoon was under heavy artillery fire during the period.

19 January. In conformance with shift of Division boundaries to the East, "B" Company reconnoitered for new positions in vicinity of South and East of SHERSHAL (Q717 494), ENCHENSHING (Q710 460) and LAMBACH (Q725 485). Company "C" reconnoitered for new positions in the vicinity of HOLBACH (Q725 510) and KLEINMHL (Q700 528).

20 January. "A" Company moved a gun from Q527 583) to vicinity of BINING (Q642 491) to perform indirect fire missions. "B" and "C" Companies prepared new positions for occupation. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company moved into indirect fire positions (Q680 480) establishing its own FDC and providing general support to Division Artillery.

21 January. The occupation of new AT defense positions by "B" and "C" Companies was completed and improvements begun. "B" Company's 3rd platoon was surveyed in by Division Artillery and the guns registered in. "A" Company in 44th Division sector performed unobserved harassing and interdiction fire missions with one gun from 2nd and 3rd platoons. For the period of

**Eq, 824th TD Bn, sub: "Narrative Account of Battalion Operations (cont'd).**

**21 - 29 January** these two guns fired nightly missions in support of 44th Division Artillery with a total expenditure of 1068 rounds HE, 28 rounds of smoke and one illuminating shell.

**22 January.** At the request of the 397th Infantry, the number 3 gun of the 2nd platoon was moved under cover of darkness to a position from which direct fire could be brought to bear on enemy position at REYERSWILLER (Q490 760). After firing 18 rounds of HE at an enemy OP and other probable enemy concentration points, the gun was hastily withdrawn under a hail of enemy mortar fire. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company, now in support of the 100th Division Artillery, performed indirect harassing night fire missions which were to continue until 12 March prior to the 100th Division offensive action against Germany.

**23 January.** The day was a relatively inactive one for all platoons not engaged in indirect fire missions. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company sustained heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire.

**24 January.** The number 2 gun of the 2nd platoon, "A" Company was attached to the 156th FA for operations and moved out of indirect fire positions at BINING (Q644 487) to Q633 498). Positions remained static with the 2nd platoon of "B" Company again receiving heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire.

**25 - 28 January.** Two guns of "A" Company and the 3rd platoon of "B" Company engaged in night interdiction and harassing fire missions. There were no changes in dispositions and missions of all Battalion elements in this period.

**29 January.** On verbal order from the Commanding General of the IV Corps, confirmed by the 5th Tank Destroyer Group, "A" Company was released from attachment to the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion. "A" Company moved out of positions to take up new AT defense on the 100th Infantry Division right flank, relieving "B" Company of the 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion (attached to 100th Inf Div) under cover of darkness. Positions were taken up in vis North and East of Lemberg, France in the vicinity of GOLTZENRUCK, SARREINS-REIG, Southeast and East of AISENHAL and SOUHT, France. "A" Company CP was established at ST. LOUIS (Q724 431).

**30 January.** Occupation of AT defense positions on Division right flank and relief of 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion was completed with the assistance of 1st Reconnaissance platoon. 2nd and 3rd platoons of "C" Company received light enemy artillery fire resulting in damage to one quarter-ton vehicle.

The last day of January found all companies disposed along the 100th Infantry Division front maintaining AT defense positions at likely avenues of approach for enemy armor. The companies continued to improve their gun positions. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company fired indirect fire harassing missions throughout the day, expending a total of 400 rounds of HE.

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

Reconnaissance platoons attached to companies provided invaluable support to companies. Among the activities were the marking of OPs, reconnoitering routes of ingress to gun positions and clearing suspected roads of mines during snowfalls. Engaged in constant road reconnaissance of all routes of ingress and egress to positions. Maintained active liaison with all front line friendly elements and adjacent units on Division flanks. Acted as road guides during movement of guns, reconnoitered for alternate positions in compliance with Divisional orders and assisted gun crews with use of demolitions in the excavation and preparation of gun positions.

During the month "A" and "B" Companies lent effective support to the 106th Cavalry Group and 44th Division and 100th Infantry Division respectively in indirect fire harassing interdictory missions and illuminating shell missions with a total expenditure of 4,624 rounds of HE and 89 rounds of illuminating shells. Five PWs taken during the month.

The Battalion has coordinated the AT defenses of the division. This included liaison between the regimental AT officers, keeping a situation map of AT defenses in the division and acting as an advisor to the Commanding General on AT defenses and making recommendations for employment of guns.

HEADQUARTERS  
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AGO 758, US Army  
06 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  
62th AND WASHINGTON BARRACKS

MO 753, US Army  
06 April 1945

**STATION - Commissioned and Enlisted:**

- (1) At beginning of period - 32 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers  
725 Enlisted Men
- (2) Net Increase during period - 0 Officers, 0 Warrant Off  
36 Enlisted Men (MIG)
- (3) Net decrease during period - 1 Officer, 0 Warrant Off  
21 Enlisted Men
- (4) At end of period - 31 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers  
725 Enlisted Men

ANNEX "C"

HEAD-QUARTERS  
82nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AFD 758, US Army  
06 April 1945

LOSERS IN ACTION - Officers and Enlisted Men

KILLED

Dudek, Albin J.	Pvt	31416464	Hq Co	Died in Hosp - Non-Battle
Shirkey, William E	Pfc	36780940	C Co	Killed in Action - Battle
Whitener, Eugene J	Pfc	34896706	B Co	Killed in Action - Battle

ACQUIRED

Altamore, Gaetano J	Pvt	42060299	B Co	
Poss, Francis A	Sgt	33146386	B Co	
Kuchta, John	Cpl	36073889	A Co	
Lane, Austin G	Cpl	34456217	B Co	
Lenson, Donald A	Sgt	32696035	A Co	
Moorens, Calvin D	Pvt	37633063	B Co	
Stansbacher, Howard S	Pvt	36094678	B Co	
Trovato, Nicholas	Pfc	42060270	A Co	

HEADQUARTERS 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 447, U.S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 65)

17 March 1945

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals:

MARTIN C. READY, 32668863, Staff Sergeant, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Paris, New York.

THOMAS F. O'BRIEN III, 32700131, Sergeant, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

CHESTER L. HYBA, 32739838, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Amsterdam, New York.

ARTHUR P. PFEIFFERMAN, 32698697, Technician Fifth Grade, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Jamaica, New York.

GEORGE H. WERNER, 32697095, Corporal, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Springfield Gardens, New York.

MARSHALL R. DEPUY, 32696061, Private First Class (then Private) 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

HARRY B. GLAZER, 42059618, Private First Class (then Private) 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Washington, District of Columbia.

EDWARD B. GLOMBISKI, 33714387, Private First Class, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For heroic achievement in action on 8 January 1945, in the vicinity of Guising, France. When an enemy attack pushed back our line of infantry, crews of two tank destroyers were forced to withdraw, abandoning their weapons which were frozen into position. On the following night these men, under the leadership of Sergeant Ready, advanced three hundred yards in front of our lines and, despite enemy infantry and tanks emplaced on high ground covering the area, succeeded in extricating the frozen weapons and withdrawing them to safety, thus salvaging valuable equipment at great risk to their own lives.

FREDERICK W. O'CONNOR, 32692307, Sergeant, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 8 January 1945, in the vicinity of Rimling, France. When extreme enemy pressure forced back our line and exposed the left flank of his position during a hostile counterattack, Sergeant O'Connor, in command of anti-tank gun crew, refused to withdraw, and by his determination and personal courage inspired his men to maintain their position. As a result of his action, our lines were restored to their former positions and two enemy personnel carriers attempting an enveloping movement were put out of action. Entered military service from Jamaica, New York.

By command of Major General BURGESS:

RICHARD G. PLAMER  
Colonel CSC  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Byron C De La Mater  
BYRON C DE LAMATER  
Lt Col AGD  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION  
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TRUE COPY

EDWARD D. MAYNARD  
1st Lt, PA  
Adj.

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HEADQUARTERS  
32nd AIRBORNE DIVISION BATTALION

APO 758, US Army  
06 April 1945

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

OVERLAYS

a

1. Battalion positions (Anti-tank and Indirect Fire) in Divisional section with changes (7 enclosures)
2. Division Anti-tank Defenses (5 enclosures).
3. Company Overlay Reports
  - "A" Company (3 enclosures)
  - "B" Company (9 enclosures)
  - "C" Company (1 enclosure)
4. Reconnaissance platoons reports (30 enclosures)

ANNEX "F"