

**HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

**AFG 758, US Army
15 May 1945**

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

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

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

For the Commanding Officer:

**WALTER D. MAYERS
1st Lt., F.A.
Adj.**

6 Enclosures

- 1 - Annex "A" - Narrative Account of Operations (1 copy)**
- 2 - Annex "B" - Original Unit (1 copy)**
- 3 - Annex "C" - Strength - Commissioned and Enlisted Men (1 copy)**
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HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DEPARTMENT BATTALION

AFD 758, US Army
15 May 1945

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF BATTALION OPERATIONS
MONTH OF MARCH 1945

At the beginning of the month the Battalion CP was at DUMERINEN, France (0600 385). The rear echelon was at WALDSEBACH (0619 365).

On the 1st of March, "A" Company CP was at ST LOUIS, France (0714 432) and the disposition of the platoons were as follows:- In the 1st platoon, one gun was South of MUESENTHAL (0726 399) in AT defense position and three guns were in indirect fire positions at MANTROHN (0685 434). One section of the 2nd platoon was in the South part of the town of LEBERG (0740 446) in AT defense position and the 2nd section was in the north part of LEBERG (0744 457) covering roads and tank approaches from BITCHE and RLY. SIVILLER. The 3rd platoon had one gun at the South end of GOETZBACH (0738 434) covering the road. One section was situated in the North of SAUBERBERG (0743 419). One gun of the 3rd platoon was in ordnance. For the period's operation, 2 guns of the 1st platoon fired 21 indirect harassing missions expending 6 rounds of smoke and 105 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. The 3rd gun of the 2nd platoon received a direct hit by enemy mortar fire. The gun was quickly repaired and ready for action by the end of the period. There were no casualties from this enemy action.

"B" Company's CP was located at ANCHERING, France (0724 460). The 1st platoon had one gun on the road Northwest of ANCHERING (0707 469), 1 gun North of SCHLEIBERG (0707 467) covering likely avenues of approach for tanks, 1 gun Southeast of ANCHERING (0717 456) and 1 gun on the road at the South end of ANCHERING (0715 458). The 2nd platoon had 2 guns in indirect fire positions at (0722 458), 1 gun on road Southwest end of MUESENTHAL (0711 438) and 1 gun in the vicinity of SIERSTHAL (0711 494). The 3rd platoon was in the North end of the woods at (0681 481). For the day's operation, the 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in SCHONBACH, VOLKRESTER and BITCHE, expending 131 rounds of HE. One section of the 2nd platoon registered in on base point by plane expending 2 rounds of smoke and 8 rounds of HEAC. The section then fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in SCHONBACH and BITCHE expending 125 rounds of HEAC. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

"C" Company's CP was at HEINRICHSDORF (0685 501). All platoons were in AT defense positions. The first platoon had 1 gun in the vicinity of HILBACH (0714 507), 1 gun at the North end of HILBACH (0719 511), 1 gun Northeast of HILBACH (0723 516) and a fourth gun at (0722 522). The 2nd platoon had one gun North of HILBACH (0681 505), 1 gun West of HILBACH (0687 532) and 1 gun at (0688 537), the fourth gun was at HEINRICHSDORF (0690 512). The 3rd platoon had 1 section at (0695 513) and 1 section at (0708 527). The company maintained AT defense positions.

02 March. In "A" Company, 3 guns of the 1st platoon fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 20 rounds of smoke and 124 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. In "B" Company, the 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in SCHNIGBACH and DOLLREBACH expending 69 rounds of HE and 14 rounds of smoke. One section of the 2nd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in SCHNIGBACH and BITCHE and expended 150 rounds of HERC. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. There were no changes in positions or operations for "C" Company for this or the subsequent periods.

03 March. In "A" Company 3 guns of the 1st platoon fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 9 rounds of smoke and 186 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. In "B" Company the 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in BITCHE and SCHNIGBACH expending 80 rounds of HE. One section of the 2nd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy positions in BITCHE and SCHNIGBACH expending 100 rounds of HERC. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

04 March. In "A" Company, 3 guns of the 1st platoon fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 11 rounds of smoke and 210 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. In "B" Company, the 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in SCHNIGBACH expending 14 rounds of smoke and 78 rounds of HE. One section of the 2nd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy positions in BITCHE, expending 150 rounds of HERC. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

05 March. Three guns of the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 5 rounds of smoke and 220 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company fired indirect fire missions at enemy targets in VOLKRESTER, ORMARVILLE R, NOUSSEVILLE R and LEHNELEWILLIN expending 120 rounds of HE. The 1st section of the 2nd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy positions in BITCHE expending 150 rounds of HERC. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

06 March. In "A" Company, 3 guns of the 1st platoon fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 125 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

07 March. In "A" Company, 3 guns of the 1st platoon fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 334 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of smoke. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. "B" Company's 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy positions expending 270 rounds of HE. One section of the 2nd platoon prepared to move into AT defense position. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

08 March. Three guns of the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 230 rounds of HE and 6 rounds of smoke. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. Enemy artillery fell in the vicinity of the 2nd platoon. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company fired indirect fire missions at enemy positions in VOLKRESTER, SCHNIGBACH and NOUSSEVILLE R expending 90 rounds of HE. The one section of the 2nd platoon in indirect fire posi-

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

tion moved out of position and took up direct fire positions in the vicinity of LA BUCH, 1 gun at (4723 483) and 1 gun at (4725 486). The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions.

09 March. Three guns of the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 17 rounds of smoke and 236 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. In "B" Company, the 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions at enemy installations in SCHONBACH expending 21 rounds of smoke and 230 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. Six M18 Tank Destroyers were received at this date.

10 March. Three guns of the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 16 rounds of smoke and 238 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. The third platoon of "B" Company fired indirect missions of 30 rounds of HE into BITCHE. The rest of the company maintained AT defense positions. Six guns of "B" Company prepared to take over the defense of area to be vacated by "C" Company. The 3rd platoon of the company remained in indirect fire position and 2 guns remained in "B" Company's sector to maintain AT defense. During the period "C" Company maintained AT defense positions and prepared to move all guns out of position under cover of darkness. "C" Company was preparing to convert to and train on M18 Tank Destroyers.

11 March. On authority of General Order #90, par 2, Headquarters Seventh Army dated 11 March the Battalion was reorganized. This reorganization converted the Battalion from a towed Battalion to a self-propelled unit.

Three guns of the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 260 rounds of HE and 9 rounds of smoke. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. During the night "B" Company took over the occupation of "C" Company's sector. The third platoon of "B" Company remained in position. The 1st platoon of "B" Company took up positions as follows:- 1 gun East of BERTVILLER (4688 537), 1 gun at (4687 533) and 1 section at (4707 527). The 2nd platoon had 1 gun South of SIEBSTHAL (4714 488), 1 gun West of SIEBSTHAL (4710 494), 1 gun at HULBACH (4717 513) and 1 gun at (4723 522). All guns of "C" Company were withdrawn from AT defense positions. The company went to WEISSELINGEN (0445 355) for conversion and training on M18 Tank Destroyers.

12 March. Three guns of the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect harassing missions at enemy positions expending 7 rounds of smoke and 241 rounds of HE. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. In "B" Company, the 3rd platoon fired indirect fire missions and expending 80 rounds of HE into BITCHE and SCHORBACH. The balance of the company maintained AT defense positions. "C" Company started training on M18 Tank Destroyers. Two M18 Tank Destroyers were received on this date.

13 March. Three guns in the 1st platoon of "A" Company fired indirect fire harassing missions at enemy positions expending 8 rounds of smoke and 227 rounds of HE. "B" Company maintained AT and indirect fire positions with no firing for the period.

14 March. "A" Company's 3 guns of the 1st platoon fired indirect harassing missions expending 220 rounds of HE. "B" Company maintained

AT defense and indirect fire positions. There was no firing for the period. "B" Company continued training on new M18 Tank Destroyers. One M18 hit a mine, the damage was slight and there were no casualties. The company practice fired with the 76mm gun and expended 75 rounds of 76mm HE and 2 rounds of 76mm APC. During the month, "A" Company's indirect fire was under the control of the 375th Field Artillery Battalion's fire direction center. The Battalion CP moved to MAIRIEUX (4685 509) in preparation for the offensive against Germany.

15 March. "A" Company's CP moved to LAIBACH (4724 486). The 1st platoon was in support of the 399th Infantry and moved out of indirect fire position during the morning into a position of readiness in the vicinity of SIERSTHAL (4716 495). During the night, the 2nd and 3rd platoons moved to ST LOUIS, France. The 2nd platoon was in a position of readiness (4718 508) and supported operations of the 399th Infantry. The 3rd platoon was in support of the 399th Infantry and moved into RAYERSVILLER (4746 493) and took up AT defense positions. One section was in a march halt position (4753 492) and was preparing to take up AT defense positions during the night. "B" Company's CP moved to HOLBACH (4724 511). The 1st platoon moved into a march halt position in the vicinity of MALREIFF, later moving one section to the vicinity of (4716 531) and the 2nd section into HOTVILLER. There was no change in the 2nd platoon's position. The 3rd platoon moved to the vicinity of HUTTVILLER to take up reconnoitered positions East of the town and to be occupied after dark. Two casualties were reported as the result of enemy artillery action. At this time Reconnaissance Company was being organized and two platoons were committed to the line. They were attached to "A" and "B" Companies and were performing road reconnaissance, reconnoitering for gun positions and for roads leading to the positions, securing enemy information and kept the Battalion CP informed of the tactical developments.

16 March. "A" Company's 1st platoon moved to a position South of BITCHE to cover roads and likely avenues of approach for tanks. They were supporting operations of the 399th Infantry. The 2nd platoon was in support of the 399th Infantry and moved to the East sector of BITCHE and covered roads and tank approaches. The 3rd platoon was in support of the 399th Infantry and moved the guns into a position East and Southeast of BITCHE to cover roads leading into BITCHE. The 3rd platoon's 3rd gun fired 5 rounds of APC and 2 rounds of HE at a fort located at (47215255). The door of the fort was smashed and an investigation at a later time revealed that the enemy had been occupying the fort. The company CP had moved into BITCHE (4777 504). "B" Company's 1st platoon moved from SIERSTHAL to an area North and Northwest of SCHREBACH and took up AT defense positions. In the 2nd platoon the 1st section took up AT defense positions in the vicinity of SCHREBACH. The 2nd section had 1 gun in HOLBACH and 1 gun South of HOTTVILLER. The reconnaissance platoons continued their missions.

17 March. In "A" Company, 1 section of the 1st platoon took up AT defense positions in the vicinity of ROUSSEVILLER, the 2nd section remained in position. One section of the 2nd platoon took up AT defense positions on the road between BITCHE and CAMP DE BITCHE and during the night the guns took up positions at the Eastern part of CAMP DE BITCHE. They were relieved by AT units of the 71st Division in the morning and

14, 824th TD Bn, sub: "Narrative Account of Battalion Operations (cont'd)

withdrew to their previous position in BIRCHE. The 2nd section remained in AT defense position. The 3rd platoon was preparing to move to the vicinity of LINDERSCHIEDT pending clearing of roads. "B" Company's CP moved to BEKIDERSBACH (4770 579). The 1st platoon remained in position as did the 1 section of the 2nd platoon. The 2nd section of the 2nd platoon was in march halt at SOKRESBACH. The 3rd platoon was in march halt at BIELEBACH. "C" Company was in training and practice fired 525 rounds of 76mm HE. The Battalion CP moved into BIRCHE (4777 500).

18 March. The Battalion continued to support the rolling offensive. One gun of the 1st platoon of "A" Company was in AT defense position in the vicinity of BUEBEVILLER, 1 gun moved to LINDERSCHIEDT into AT defense and 1 section to LOPPEVILLER. One section of the 2nd platoon remained in AT defense Northeast of BIRCHE and one section occupied AT defense position the vicinity of HASPELSCHIEDT. The 3rd platoon moved in to a position in the vicinity of SCHNECK and fired a direct fire mission of 26 rounds of HE into the towns of KROPPEN and VIERLINGEN, Germany at buildings occupied by enemy troops. The company CP moved into BUEBEVILLER. "B" Company's 1st platoon moved to the vicinity of OLSDERG and then moved to the vicinity of DORST. The 2nd platoon took up AT defense position in the vicinity of WALDHAUSEN and the 3rd platoon took up AT defense position in WALSCHBRONN. The company CP moved to WALDHAUSEN.

19 March. "A" Company relieved "B" Company in the 397th Infantry sector and took up AT defense positions in the vicinity of DORST and WALDHAUSEN. The 3rd platoon had moved out of positions under a heavy barrage of artillery and mortar fire (approximately 100 rounds). The company had completed occupation of AT defense positions by 1300 hours. "B" Company withdrew from the lines for conversion to M18 Tank Destroyers. The company went into training at MAIRHUFF. "C" Company completed training and went into mobile reserve at PETITE REDERCHING.

20 March. During the day the platoons of "A" Company had shifted and changed positions to strengthen the AT defenses in the division sector. 150 rounds of artillery fire were received in the vicinity of the 2nd platoon at WALSCHBRONN (4790 645). The company CP was at WALDHAUSEN (4807 608) and had received several rounds of 105 artillery fire during the day. "B" Company went into training on the M18 Tank Destroyers at MAIRHUFF, France and "C" Company remained in mobile reserve at PETITE REDERCHING.

21 March. "A" Company relieved from their positions by the 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion and went into a march halt position at DORST and WALSCHBRONN.

22 March. "A" Company was attached to the 397th Infantry. "B" Company was attached to the 399th Infantry and moved out of PETITE REDERCHING. The Battalion CP closed BIRCHE, France and opened at HOH FROESCHEN, Germany (4875 500).

23 March. "A" Company's CP moved to MUEHSTADT (R45 94). The company was attached to the 397th Infantry and moved forward carrying infantry personnel. At the end of the period the platoons were in march halt at MUEHSTADT (R450 940) and MAIRDACH (R466 954). "C" Company moved forward with elements of the 399th Infantry carrying infantry personnel on the M18 Tank Destroyers. The 1st and 2nd platoons occupied AT defense positions in the vicinity of MUEHSTADT and MAIRDACH. The 3rd platoon was on the move at the end of the period. The Battalion CP moved to DIJESWIL (R331 905).

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24 March. "A" Company was in march halt in the vicinity of MUTTERSTADT (R450 934). "B" Company moved out of MALERSHOFF, France and moved to MECHENHEIM (R362 886) and continued training on M18 Tank Destroyers. "C" Company's CP was in MUTTERSTADT (R450 934) and the platoons were moving into AT defense position to protect the division's left flank.

25 March. "A" Company's platoons had moved out of march halt and took up AT defense positions. "B" Company fired 200 rounds of HE for practice firing of 76mm guns. "C" Company CP moved to OGGERSHEIM (R980 468). The platoons had taken up new AT defense positions.

26 March. "A" Company CP opened at MECHENHEIM (R326 886). Platoons withdrew from AT defense positions on right flank of Division sector, and moved to MECHENHEIM for conversion and training on M18 TDs. "B" Company's CP opened at MUTTERSTADT (R450 934). Company complete training with M18s and moved out to relieve "A" Company in support of the 399th Infantry sector. Company now attached to the 399th GI and was in bivouac at MUTTERSTADT. "C" Company was withdrawn from AT defense positions and the division moved into Corps reserve. The 1st and 3rd platoons were at OGGERSHEIM, the 2nd platoon was at EPPSTEIN. The company was attached to the 397th GI. Reconnaissance Company completed its organization and started operating as a company. The company CP opened at PUTSCHENHEIM (R404 960). The 1st platoon was attached to "B" Company and the 2nd platoon was attached to "C" Company. The Battalion CP moved to PUTSCHENHEIM (R404 960).

From the 27th to the 30th of March. The Battalion along with the Division went into Corps reserve. During this period the companies went into a brief period of training. Check posts were also maintained by the companies.

31 March. The battalion moved to an assembly area East of the Rhine. The Battalion CP closed PUTSCHENHEIM and opened (R567 913) former concentration camp area.

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AFO 758, US Army
15 May 1945

ORIGINAL INFO

- (1) Designation - 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed)
- (2) Date of organization - August 10, 1942
- (3) Place of organization - Camp Greber, 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

ADRES #30

HEADQUARTERS
821st TANK DESTRUCTION BATTALION

AGO 750, US Army
15 May 1945

STRENGTH - Commissioned and Enlisted

- (1) At beginning of period - 31 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers
727 Enlisted Men
- (2) Net increase during period - 1 Officer, 0 Warrant Officers
7 Enlisted Men (REU)
- (3) Net decrease during period - 2 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers
110 Enlisted Men
(1 Off, 10 EM transferred to DCP)
(1 EM transferred to CCS)
(1 Off transferred to Hq SCAD)
- (4) At end of period - 30 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers
614 Enlisted Men

"ANNEX "C"

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

736, US Army
15 May 1945

LOSERS IN ACTION FOR MARCH - Officers and Enlisted Men

KILLED

None

WOUNDED

Arice, Peter A.
Rodi, Anthony J

Tec 5
Pvt

32696961 "B" Company SGA
42202168 "B" Company IGA

AMBUCK "D"