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HEADQUARTERS

899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230 U.S. ARMY


3 April 1945.

SECTION I - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Authority

1. In compliance with Par. 10 (C4), AR 345-105, this Report of Operations of the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion for the month of March 1945 is submitted.

For the Battalion Commander:



Harley H. Miller
HARLEY H. MILLER,
Major, 899th TD Bn.,
S-3.

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per JEPitts, AG-AK

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SECTION II - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Introduction

1. a. During the period covered by this report the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by Lt. Colonel MAXWELL A. TINCER, was attached to the 9th Infantry Division, commanded by Major General LOUIS A. CRAIG. The 9th Infantry Division, from 1 March 1945 to 0800A, 31 March 1945 was assigned to III Corps, commanded by Major General JOHN J. MILLIKEN, who was later in the period succeeded by Major General JOHN VAN FLEET. From 0800A, 31 March 1945, to the end of the period, the 9th Infantry Division was assigned to VII Corps, commanded by Major General J. LAWTON COLLINS. The III and VII Corps were in turn assigned to the First United States Army commanded by Lt. General COURTNEY B. HODGES.

b. During this period the following units, for the dates shown, were attached to this Battalion for operations: March 11 to March 13, 1945 (inclusive), Companies A and C, 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by Captain Richard H. Tuggle, 0469959, and Captain David V. Cleary, 033919, respectively; attached for operations per VOCC, 9th Infantry Division.

c. During the period the following maps were used by this Battalion: Tactical Maps - 0808 4414, Sheets 5206, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 5306, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 5406, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; Maps, 1/50,000, Sheets 40, 60, 80, 100, and 130; Maps, Central Europe, 1/100,000, sheets S-1, S-2, S-3, and R-3. Situation maps, scale 1/250,000 and scale 1/1,000,000; Aerial photographs and terrain studies were also utilized.

For the Battalion Commander:



Harley N. Miller
HARLEY N. MILLER,
Major, 899th T.D. Bn.,
S-3.

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Per J.E. Potts, AGFK
10 Dec 57

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HEADQUARTERS
890TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230 U.S. ARMY

3 April 1945

SECTION III - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Report of Operations - Month of March 1945

Mar. 1, 1945 - Battalion attached to 9th Inf. Div. The Division continued to attack toward Zulpich after establishing a bridgehead across the Roer River vicinity Nideggen.

Bn. CP located vicinity Rath, Germany.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th ROT provided close support to the CT. 3rd pltn in direct support of the 1st Bn. 39th Inf supported their attack and assisted in the capture of Ginnich. House to house fighting ensued and 2 destroyers were knocked out by bazooka fire. 2nd pltn in direct support of the 3rd Bn. 39th Inf moved with the Bn. after having been relieved by elements of the 60th Inf. in Berg to AT positions vic Froitzheim. Together with the 1st pltn destroyed 2 Mk III assault guns and 2 Mk IV assault guns vic FI87344. 1st pltn in direct support of the 2nd Bn. 39th Inf provided close support to the Bn. in the capture of Froitzheim, Germany and occupied AT posns in the town, assisting the 2nd pltn in the destruction of the above assault guns. Co CP vic Boich, Germany.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th ROT. 1st pltn in direct support of the 1st Bn. 60th Inf occupied AT posns in Berg. 2nd pltn in direct support of the 2nd Bn. 60th Inf gave close support to the Bn. in the capture of Muldenau and Thuir. The pltn organized the AT defenses of Muldenau. The 3rd pltn in direct support of the 3rd Bn. 60th Inf supported the attack of the Bn. to secure the high ground East of Berg and occupied AT posns vic FI49315 and FI54315. The pltn destroyed 1 M/G nest. Co CP vic Berg, Germany.

Co. C - In direct support of the 47th ROT. The company moved with the ROT to assembly posns vic Froitzheim in preparation for an attack on 2 Mar. '45. Co CP vic Boich, Germany.

Recon. Co. - 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltns in direct support of Co's A, B and C respectively. Continued SOP reconnaissance missions. Co CP in Rath, Germany.

Hq. Co. - Moved to vic Nideggen, Germany.

M-36's Operational - 33

M-10's Operational - 7

Vehicular Losses - 2 M-36's due to enemy action - 1 burned, 1 repairable.

Casualties - 2 MM KIA, 3 MM WIA

Enemy Material Destroyed - 2 Mk III assault guns 2 Mk IV assault guns
1 M/G nest 1 AT gun

Ammunition Expended - 26 rds 90mm APC 23 rds 90mm HE

Mar. 2, 1945 - The Div. continued to attack to the East, meeting moderate to heavy resistance throughout the day. The Bn. continued to defend the Div. against armor and provide assault gun missions for the Regt's.

Co. A - Company in direct support of the 39th ROT moved from AT posns vic Froitzheim with the Regt. to relieve elements of the 9th Armd. Div. along the Neffel R. vic Maddersheim, Disternich, and Sievernich. Upon arrival of the CT the 1st Bn. attacked with the 1st pltn in direct support and captured WeilerAuf'Ebens, Scheuren and Borr. Plans were made for the continuation of the attack on 3 Mar. '45 in the direction of Lommersum and Mulheim.

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Per J.E. Pitts, ARAK
10 Dec 57

Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

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2, 1945 - Cont'd.

Co. B - Company in direct support of the 60th RCT. The RCT continued to attack and captured Embken and Jantersdorf. The company gave close support to the Bns and destroyed one pillbox and 1 M/G nest and inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy.

Co. C - Company in direct support of the 47th RCT. The RCT attacked at 0430 hrs, passing through the 39th RCT at Froitzheim, and captured Fussenich and Geich. The 1st and 2nd pltns organized the AT defenses of the towns. During the afternoon the RCT attacked East and after bitter fighting captured Bessenich, Rovenich, and Oberelvenich. The company organized the AT defenses of the towns. 2nd pltn destroyed 2-88mm AT guns vicinity Rovenich (F260348).

Rcn. Co. - Continued to support the gun companies.

Hq. Co. - Moved to vicinity Berg (F141327).

M-36's Operational - 34

M-10's Operational - 7

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - Two BM KIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 pillbox 1 M/G nest in house 2-88mm AT gun

Ammunition Expended - 9 rds APC 49 rds HE 90mm

Mar. 3, 1945 - The Div continued to attack with limited objectives.

The Bn continued to provide AT and close support to the Div.

Co. A - No change in assignments. Continued to protect the RCT against enemy armor. Took up AT posns in Niederberg, Wicherich and Weiler Auf d'Ebene. Co. CP in Disternich.

Co. B - No change in assignments within the company. The 1st and 3rd pltns supported the attack on Fulpich and organized the AT defenses of the town. The 2nd pltn remained in company reserve in Fussenich. Co. CP in Fulpich.

Co. C - No change in assignments within the company. The company continued to protect the RCT against enemy armor and occupied AT posns in Frauenberg and Oberelvenich. The 2nd pltn remained in reserve in Bessenich. Co. CP in Bessenich.

Hq. Co. moved to vicinity F248393.

M-36's Operational - 34

M-10's Operational - 5

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - 2 BM KIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - Unknown

Ammunition Expended - 14 rds APC 49 rds HE 90mm



Mar. 4, 1945 - The Div continued to attack with limited objectives.

The 60th RCT, less the 3rd pltn Co. B, was attached to the 9th Armd. Div. for the attack on Euskirchen. The Bn. continued to protect the Div. against armored attack.

Co. A - No change in assignment. Pltns occupied AT posns in Lommersum, Wicherich and Niederberg. The 1st pltn from Lommersum destroyed 3-88mm dual purpose AA/AT guns and assisted in the neutralization of 1-88mm dual purpose AA/AT gun and 4-20mm M/G-AA guns vicinity F349355. Co. CP moved to Borr, Germany.

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(3) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 4, 1945 - Cont'd.

Co. B (less the 3rd pltn) Attached to the 60th RCT (attached to the 9th Armd. Div. for operations) remained in assembly area in Zulpich awaiting to assist the capture of Euskirchen.

Co. C - 3rd pltn Co. B. attached. Continued to defend the RCT against enemy armor. 3rd pltn relieved one section of the 3rd pltn Co. B. in AT posns in Nemmenich. 2nd pltn occupied AT posns in Frauenberg. The 1st pltn remained in reserve in Bessenich. During the late afternoon and night the entire company moved to assembly area with the RCT via Wicherich-Lommersum in preparation for an attack on the 5th March 1945.

Remainder of Battalion - No change.

M-36's Operational - 34

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 3-88mm dual AA/AT guns 1-88mm dual AA/AT gun neutralized. 4-20mm AA M/G neutralized

Ammunition Expended - 27 rds APC 17 rds HE 90mm

Mar. 5, 1945 - The Div continued to attack East from Lommersum, with the 39th on the right and the 47th on the left with the 60th in Div reserve. Heavy resistance was encountered throughout the day from SP fire, artillery and small arms. The Bn. continued to give close support to the Regts and provide the AT defenses of the Div.

Co. A - No change in assignments. The 1st pltn occupied reserve posns via F350350. 2nd pltn in posn in Ollheim. 3rd pltn moved to AT posns via F389340 (Staffeld).

Co. B - Company in direct support of the 60th RCT. Made preparations to assist the Regt. upon passing through the 39th RCT. The 3rd pltn in reserve in Derkum. 2nd pltn moved to AT posns via Dunstekover (F431339). 1st pltn moving with the 1st Bn. 60th RCT.

Co. C - No change in assignments. 1st pltn in reserve vicinity F394353. 2nd pltn in AT posns via F415367. 3rd pltn in AT posns via F418357.

M-36's Operational - 33

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None



Mar. 6, 1945 - The Div continued to attack East to gain the high ground just West of the Rhine R. No change in assignment for the Bn.

Co. A - No change.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th RCT. The RCT passed through the 39th RCT during the morning and continued the attack East. All pltns assembled in Buchhoven (F462318).

Co. C - Continued to give close support to the 47th RCT. 1st pltn occupied AT posns via F459378. 2nd pltn in reserve via F421360. 3rd pltn in AT posns via F456374. On 5th Mar. the 3rd pltn fired 4 rds APC and 7 rds HE 90mm destroying one enemy strong point.

M-36's Operational - 33

M-10's Operational - 2

Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

SECRET

1945 - Cont'd.

Vehicular Losses - 1 1/4 ton hit mine
Casualties - 1 Officer and 1 EM WIA
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 strong point
Ammunition Expended - 4 rds APC 7 rds HE 90mm

Mar. 7, 1945 - The Div continued to attack toward the Rhine River.

Co. A. in direct support of the 39th RCT moved forward with the RCT in the attack on Bad Godesberg.

Co. B. in direct support of the 60th RCT gave close support to the attack of the RCT. Occupied AT posns vic F494318, F495344, F484332, and F530314. The 3rd pltn captured 1 P/W.

Co. C. initially in direct support of the 47th RCT.

3rd pltn destroyed 2 M/G nests and 2 strong points vic F483395. At 1700 hrs the company was attached to the 47th RCT (attached to the 9th Armd. Div.) and moved with the RCT to the vic of Remagen.

Hq. Co. moved to vic F443319.

M-36's Operational - 33

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 2 M/G nests 2 strong points

Ammunition Expended - 8 rds APC 38 rds HE 90mm

Mar. 8, 1945 - In the early part of the period, the Division (less the 47th RCT) continued to attack toward the Rhine River vic Bad Godesberg.

The Bn continued to give close support to the attack. During the latter part of the period the Div (less the 39th RCT, attached to the 7th Armd. Div.) and the 47th RCT (attached to the 9th Armd. Div.), prepared to move to the Remagen Bridgehead.

Bn. CP vicinity F459317.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Inf Regt. 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltns attached to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns respectively. The company gave close support to the Regt in its attack on Bad Godesberg. Co CP in Pech, Germany (F563283).

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th RCT. Company relieved in place with the Regt. by elements of the 1st Inf. Div. and the 7th Armd. Div. The 2nd pltn moved with the 2nd Bn. to the Remagen Bridgehead. Rest of company alerted to move.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Inf Regt. Gave close support to the Regt. and organized the AT defenses of the Remagen Bridgehead. After an all night road march the company moved across the Rhine River on the Ludendorf Bridge vicinity Remagen at 0815 hrs. The 2nd pltn in direct support of the 2nd Bn, after destroying two (2) 20mm AA M/Gs, blasted the way for the Battalion and captured the town of Bruchhausen (F659227) and organized the AT defenses of the town. The 1st pltn remained in Regtl. reserve in Orsberg. The 3rd pltn in direct support of the 3rd Bn moved with the Bn in the attack on Ohlenberg and organized the AT defenses of the town.

M-36's Operational - 33

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - 2 EM WIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 2 - 20mm AA M/G's

Ammunition Expended - 84 rds APC 32 rds HE 90mm

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~~SECRET~~2) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 9, 1945 - The Div less the 39th RCT moved to the Remagen Bridgehead and assumed command of all troops in the area. The Bn (less Co. A.) moved with the Div to Erpel, and gave close support to the Div against enemy armor.

Co. A. - Attached to the 39th Inf Regt. Supported the attack of the RCT to police up Bad Godesberg.

Co. B. - Company (less 2nd pltn) moved with the 60th RCT to the Remagen Bridgehead, and gave close support to the RCT in their attack to enlarge the bridgehead. 1st pltn occupied AT posns vic F687196. The 2nd pltn occupied reserve posns in Linz. The 3rd pltn occupied AT posns vic F688189. Co. C. in Linz.

Co. C. - Released from attachment to the 47th Inf Regt and placed in direct support of the Regt. The company gave close support and AT protection to the RCT. The 1st pltn, one section in reserve vic Orsberg and one section in AT posns vic F656227. The 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F659226, and the 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F680212. The 3rd pltn lost one destroyer due to enemy tank fire.

M-36's Operational - 33

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - 1 M-36 hit by tank fire, burned F680211.

Casualties - 1 MM KIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Mar. 10, 1945 - The Div continued to attack in the Remagen Bridgehead. The Bn. in addition to providing AT protection to the Div, coordinated the AT defenses of the entire bridgehead.

Co. A. - Relieved of attachment to the 39th Inf Regt and placed in direct support of the Regt. Moved with the RCT to the Bridgehead area and assembled in Unkel, and remained in Div reserve with the 39th Inf Regt.

Co. B. - Continued to give close support and AT protection to the 60th RCT. The 1st pltn in support of the 1st Bn. destroyed 2 enemy strong points, and 1 M/G nest. The 2nd pltn remained in reserve posns vic F675191. The 3rd pltn destroyed 2 bazooka teams after having one M-36 damaged, occupied AT posns vic F703188.

Co. C. - Continued to protect the 47th RCT against tanks. 1st and 3rd pltns in AT posns in Ohlenberg. The 2nd pltn in reserve posns vic F675210.

M-36's Operational - 31

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - 2 M-36's. One due to mechanical failure, and one due to enemy bazooka fire.

Casualties - 2 MM KIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 2 strong points 2 bazooka teams 1 M/G nest

Ammunition Expended - 14 rds APC 27 rds HE 90mm

Mar. 11, 1945 - The Div continued to attack to enlarge the Bridgehead. The Battalion continued to give close support and protect the Division against enemy armor. The Bn. coordinated the TD defenses of the entire Bridgehead.

Co. A. - Company in direct support of the 39th Inf Regt. 1st pltn in AT posns vic F642246, the 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F652257, and 3rd pltn in AT reserve posns vic F637234.

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Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

11.1945 - Cont'd.

Co. B. - In direct support of the 60th Inf Regt. 1st pltn occupied AT posns vic F706206. 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F692199. 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F716203.

Co. C. - In direct support of the 47th Inf Regt. The company gave close support to the Regt. and protected the Regt. against enemy armor. The 1st pltn in support of the 3rd Bn. destroyed 3 Mk V tanks at a range of 50 yds. The 3rd pltn also destroyed 3-37mm AA/AT guns complete with crew. Tanks and 37mm AA guns in vic F688217. 1st pltn occupied reserve AT posns vic F678212, the 2nd pltn occupied AT posns vic F687217, and the 3rd pltn occupied AT posns vic F687217.

Co's. A and C of the 656th TD Bn. attached to the Bn. per VOGG 9th Inf Div and constituted the bridgehead TD reserve. Co. A. ordered to move into the Bridgehead on the 12 March 1945. Co. C. organized reserve AT posns vic F662228, F656227, and F641248.

M-36's Operational - 32

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - 1 Officer WIA 1 FM KIA 4 EM WIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 3 Mk V tanks 3-37mm AA/AT guns with crew

Ammunition Expended - 32 rds APC 14 rds HE 90mm

Mar. 12, 1945 - The Div continued to attack to expand the bridgehead. The Bn. continued to coordinate the bridgehead TD defenses and provide close support and AT protection to the Div.

Co. A. - Attached to the 39th Inf Regt (attached to the 78th Inf Div for operations). 1st and 3rd pltns no change. The 2nd pltn moved to AT posns vic F672252, platoons were attached to the Infantry Bns.

Co. B. - No change in missions or assignments within the Company. 1st pltn destroyed one M/G nest. Occupied AT posns vic F693198. The 2nd pltn remained in reserve AT posns vic F693198. The 3rd pltn lost 2 M-36's by direct fire vic F720203, the remaining destroyer in posn vic F717203.

Co. A, 656th TD Bn. closed in bridgehead area at 0115 hrs. and occupied AT posns vic F678202, F675209, and F678213. The company was attached to Co. C. for tactical dispositions and reverted to Bn. control upon completion of same.

Co. C. 656th TD Bn. - No change.

M-36's Operational - 30

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - 2 M-36's (burned)

Casualties - 5 EM WIA 2 EM KIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 M/G nest

Ammunition Expended - 1 rd HE 90mm

Mar. 13, 1945 - The Div (less the 39th RCT) continued to attack to enlarge the Remagen Bridgehead. The Bn. continued to give close support and protect the Div. against enemy armor. The Bn. also continued the coordination of all TD's on the bridgehead.

Co. A. - No change.

(6)

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7) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

13. 1945 - Cont'd.

Co. B. - 1st pltn destroyed one 88mm AA/AT gun via F721206, and two Jagdpanther via F721199. Occupied AT posns via F704206 and F710204. The 2nd pltn occupied AT posns via F712123 and F713212. The 3rd pltn destroyed 2 Jagdpanthers via F720204. The pltn occupied AT posns via F710206.

Co. C. - No change in posns.

Co's. A & C, 656th TD Bn. - No change.

M-36's Operational - 30

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - 2 Officers WIA 2 EM WIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 4 Jagdpanthers

Ammunition Expended - 20 rds 90mm APC

1-88mm AA/AT gun

Mar. 14, 1945 - The attack to the East to enlarge the Bridgehead continued with the Bn. in its primary role supporting the Div. The 8th TD Group moved to the Bridgehead area and took over the coordination of the TD's. The 656th TD Bn. and the 817th TD Bn. were attached to the group per VCG III Corps, and became the Bridgehead reserve. Co. A. 656th TD Bn. and Co. A. 817th TD Bn (T) were placed in general support of the Div.

Co. A. - No change in attachment. 1st pltn occupied AT posns via F675255. The 2nd pltn occupied AT posns via F691259, and the 3rd pltn occupied AT posns via F689248.

Co. B. - In direct support of the 60th Inf Regt. Provided close-in AT protection to the Regt. 1st pltn in AT posns via F714207. The 2nd pltn in AT posns via F720211, and the 3rd pltn in posn via F710206.

Co. C. - In direct support of the 47th Inf Regt. 1st pltn in AT posns via F708206, the 2nd pltn in AT posns via F688219, and the 3rd pltn in AT posns via F689248.

M-36's Operational - 30

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - 3 EM WIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Mar. 15, 1945 - The Div. continued to attack and seized the high ground via Notscheid. The Bn. continued to provide close support to the Inf. and provide protection against enemy armor.

Co. A. - No change in attachments. Company moved behind the Inf. and took up AT posns via F675246, F696240, and F707247.

Co. B. - In direct support of the 60th Inf Regt. and provided close support and AT protection to the Regt. in the attack on Notscheid. 1st pltn occupied AT posns via Notscheid, the 2nd pltn occupied AT posns via St. Katharmen and the 3rd pltn in reserve posns via F710207.

Co. C. - 1st pltn occupied AT posns in Notscheid. The 2nd pltn in AT posns via F700240, and the 3rd pltn in reserve AT posns via F689218.

M-36's Operational - 30

M-10's Operational - 2

(7)

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(8) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 15, 1945 - Cont'd.

Vehicular Losses - 1 1/4 ton hit by AT fire.
Casualties - 1 Officer WIA and 3 EM WIA 2 EM KIA
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - Unknown
Ammunition Expended - 7 rds 90mm APC and 36 rds 90mm HE

Mar. 16, 1945 - The Div continued to attack to the East capturing the towns of Lorenscheid, Kalenborn, Schweifeld, and Redenscheid. The Bn. continued in its primary mission.

Co. A. - Relieved from attachment to the 39th Inf Regt and placed in direct support of the Regt. Company gave close support to the Inf. and destroyed two Half-tracks and two GP vehicles and fired on house strong points. 1st pltn in AT posns vic F702243, the 2nd pltn in AT posns in Schweifeld and Rederscheid, and the 3rd pltn occupied AT posns in Kalenborn.

Co. B. - The 1st pltn supported the attack of the 1st Bn. to secure the town of Strodt. The attack was not successful and the pltn remained in AT posns in Lorenscheid. The pltn fired on enemy tanks in Strodt and the high ground to the East of the town, but results were unknown. 2nd and 3rd pltns moved to AT posns in Lorenscheid. The 1st pltn lost one M-36 from enemy tank fire.

Co. C. - Continued to provide close support to the 47th Inf. Supported the attack toward Vettelschoss. The 3rd pltn from posns in Hotscheid fired on enemy tanks in Vettelschoss and damaged 3 tanks, type not identified. All three pltns occupied AT posns in Hotscheid.

M-36's Operational - 31

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - 1 M-36 burned
Casualties - 3 EM WIA
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 2 GP vehicles 2 Half-tracks
3 tanks damaged
Ammunition Expended - 7 rds APC 34 rds HE 90mm



Mar. 17, 1945 - The Div. continued to attack to the East to enlarge the bridgehead. The Bn. continued to give close support.

Co. A. - In direct support of the 39th Inf Regt. All pltns gave close support to their Bns. 3rd pltn destroyed two M/G nests in houses. Company occupied AT posns vic F705260, F717260, F712265, F173265, F707248.

Co. B. - In direct support of the 60th ROT gave close support to the Regt. in the attack on and capture of Strodt. 1st pltn occupied AT posns in Strodt. The 2nd pltn occupied AT posns in Lorenscheid and the 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F738229 (NE of Strodt).

Co. C. - Company in direct support of the 47th ROT. Gave close support to the Regt. in the attack on Vettelschoss.

Regt. and Hq. Co's. - No change.

M-36's Operational - 32

M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None
Casualties - None
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 2 M/Gs destroyed
Ammunition Expended - 48 rds APC 66 rds HE

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(9) - Report of Operations. - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 18, 1945 - The Div. continued to attack to the East to seize final bridgehead objectives. The Bn. continued to give close support and provide the AT protection to the Div.

Co. A. in direct support of the 39th RCT. 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltns in support of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bns. respectively. The 2nd pltn lost one M-36 by enemy tank fire vic F736272. 4 BM KIA and 1 M SWA. The pltn destroyed one Jagdpanther vic F726273. 1st pltn occupied AT posns vic F732255 and F730264. The 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F736272. The 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F706248.

Co. B. - No change in assignment. 1st pltn in AT posns vic F738227. The 2nd pltn in AT posns vic Lorscheid and the 3rd pltn occupied AT posns vic F743238.

Co. C. - No change.
M-36's Operational - 30
M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - 1 M-36 (burned)
Casualties - 4 BM KIA and 1 M SWA
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 Jagdpanther
Ammunition Expended - 3 rds APC

Mar. 19, 1945 - No change in assignments within the Bn. Continued to give AT protection to the Div.

Co. A. - 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltns no change in posns.

Co. B. - 1st pltn in AT posns vic F738232. 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F730219, and the 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F748239.

Co. C. - 1st pltn in AT posns vic F737241. 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F738246. 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F722243.

Hq. Co. moved to F677213.
M-36's Operational - 30
M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None
Casualties - None
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
Ammunition Expended - None



Mar. 20, 1945 - Co. A. - 1st pltn in AT posns vic F738284. 2nd pltn in AT posns vic F734277 and F736268, and the 3rd pltn in AT posns vic F748270. 3rd pltn destroyed one Jagdpanther vic F766283.

Co. B. - No change.
Co. C. - No change.
M-36's Operational - 30
M-10's Operational - 2

Vehicular Losses - None
Casualties - None
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 Jagdpanther tank
Ammunition Expended - 11 rds APC 1 rd AB

Mar. 21, 1945 -- The Div. remained in a defensive situation today resting and making plans for future operations.

No change in company or platoon positions. The Bn. conducted training of replacements.

1st pltn of Co. A. relieved in place by one pltn of Co. B. 656th TD Bn. 1st pltn Co. A. returned to Co CP for maintenance.

M-36's Operational - 32
M-10's Operational - 2

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(10) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 21, 1945 - Cont'd.

Vehicular losses - None
Casualties - None.
Enemy materiel destroyed - None
Ammunition expended - None.

Mar. 22, 1945 - During the early part of the period the Division remained on the defensive with the Battalion in AT positions. During the later part of the period the Division commenced movement to Line of Departure for future operations.

Co.' A & C - No change.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th RCT. 1st platoon moved to AT positions vicinity of F740226. The 2nd platoon remained in AT positions vicinity Lorscheid. The 3rd platoon in AT positions vicinity F738216.

M36's Operational - 33

M10's Operational - 2

Vehicular losses - None.
Casualties - None.
Enemy materiel destroyed - None.
Ammunition expended - None.



Mar. 23, 1945 - The 60th RCT continued to attack to seize high ground vicinity Rahms for a Line of Departure for future operations.

Co.'s A & C - No change.

Co. B - 1st platoon in AT positions vicinity F749223. The 2nd platoon in AT positions vicinity Rahms. The 3rd platoon in AT positions vicinity F785226.

M36's Operational - 32

M10's Operational - 1

Vehicular losses - None.
Casualties - 1 EM WIA.
Enemy materiel destroyed - None.
Ammunition expended - None.

Mar. 24, 1945 - The Division remained inactive for the period except for the 60th RCT which continued to police up the high ground vicinity Rahms in preparation for future operations.

Co.'s A & C - No change.

Co. B - Remained in direct support of the 60th RCT. The company organized the AT defenses of the Regiment from positions vicinity F748222, F770216, and F779228.

M36's Operational - 33

M10's Operational - 1

Vehicular losses - None.
Casualties - None.
Enemy materiel destroyed - None.
Ammunition expended - None.

(10)

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(11) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 25, 1945 - The entire Division resumed the attack during the night 24-25 March, with objectives to the East of the Remagen Bridgehead. The Battalion continued to give close support and protect the Division against enemy armor.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th ROT. The company moved forward with the infantry and fired on strong points holding up the attack. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity F782242. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity F767257 and F776266. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity F761267 and F760271.

Co. B - Continued in direct support of the 60th ROT. Moved forward with the infantry and occupied AT positions vicinity F807206, F815201, and F785228.

Co. C - Continued in direct support of the 47th ROT. All platoons moved forward with the infantry battalions they were supporting and occupied AT positions vicinity F806265, F822238, and F782250.

Ren. Co. - Continued to give close support to the gun companies.

Hq. Co. - Moved to vicinity F723243.

M36's Operational - 33

M10's Operational - 11

Vehicular losses - None.

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - Unknown.

Ammunition expended - 4 rds 90mm HE.

Mar. 26, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the East with practically no resistance. All regiments made good progress though mines and demolitions slowed progress initially. The Battalion continued to support the attack. Destroyers were used to haul infantry on the rapid advances.

Co. A - No change in assignment. 1st platoon in AT positions vicinity G001193. The 2nd platoon in AT positions vicinity F998230. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity F962228.

Co. B - No change in assignment. 1st platoon in AT positions vicinity F952197, the 2nd platoon in AT positions vicinity F923196. The 3rd platoon in AT positions vicinity F969183.

Co. C - No change in assignment. 1st and 2nd platoons in AT positions vicinity F868245. The 3rd platoon in AT positions vicinity F831245.

Ren Co. - Platoons continued to support the movement of the gun companies.

Hq. Co. - Moved to vicinity F723243.

M36's Operational - 34.

Vehicular losses - None.

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - None.

Ammunition expended - None.

(11)

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(12) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 27, 1945 - The Division continued to road march to the East against no enemy resistance. The Battalion supported the advance with no change of assignments to regiments. All platoons were used to transport infantry. Positions astride the Dill River vicinity Katzenfurt were occupied during the night. No contact with the enemy was made with the exception of numerous FSW drifting in from the woods.

M36's Operational - 34

Vehicular losses - None.

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - None.

Ammunition expended - None.



Mar. 28, 1945 - The Division continued to advance against no resistance after crossing the Dill River, and by late afternoon were astride the Lahn River vicinity Fronhen (G6834). The 39th RCT remained in Division Reserve and remained in defense of the Dill River crossings. The Battalion continued to support the Division and provided the AT protection of the Division.

Co. A - 1st platoon in AT positions vicinity Kolschan. The 2nd platoon in positions vicinity Sinn. The 3rd platoon in AT positions vicinity Niederlemp and Oberlemp.

Co. B - 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G643348. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G676343. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G686302.

Co. C - 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G681378. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G631369. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G678346.

Hon Co. - continued to support the gun companies.

Hq. Co. - Moved to vicinity Frankenbach (G590308).

M36's Operational - 35.

Vehicular losses - None

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - None.

Ammunition expended - None.

Mar. 29, 1945 - The Division remained inactive for the period with the exception of the 39th RCT, which was relieved from the defense of the Dill River and rejoined the rest of the Division. The Battalion spent the day resting and maintenance of vehicles.

Co. A - Moved with the 39th RCT and occupied AT positions vicinity G640370, G657373, G632378, G612358.

Co.'s B & C - No change.

M36's Operational - 35.

Vehicular losses - None

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - None.

Ammunition expended - None.

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Page (13) - Report of Operations - Month of March 1945.

Mar. 30, 1945 - The Division continued to remain inactive for the period with no contact with the enemy with the exception of a few stragglers. The Battalion continued maintenance of vehicles.

No change of positions within the Battalion.

3rd platoon, Co. A, attached to 3rd Battalion, 39th RCT, for possible employment with the 7th Armored Division.

M36's Operational - 35.

Vehicle losses - None.

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - None.

Ammunition expended - None.

Mar. 31, 1945 - The Division attached to VII Corps at 0800 hrs.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th RCT, moved with RCT under company control to assembly area vicinity G6279.

Co. B - in direct support of the 60th RCT, moved with RCT under company control to assembly area vicinity G5367.

Co. C - in direct support of the 47th RCT, moved with RCT under company control to assembly area vicinity G5470. Company captured 9 prisoners.

M36's Operational - 35

Vehicular losses - None

Casualties - None.

Enemy materiel destroyed - None.

Ammunition expended - None.



For the Battalion Commander:

Harley N. Miller
 HARLEY N. MILLER,
 Major, 899th TD Bn.,
 S-3.

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HEADQUARTERS
899th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 230 US ARMY

3 April 1945

REPORT: ACTION AGAINST ENEMY; Period 01001 March to 312400 March 1945.

SECTION IV

SUPPLY AND EVACUATION

Map: Central Europe 1:100,000, Sheet "MARBURG", R3.

1. Location of Administrative Troops and Installations.

- a. Rear Echelon Located K988320 (in Hurtgen Forest) at beginning of period.
- b. On 2 March, Rear Echelon moved to F143322, Vic. BERG.
- c. On 3 March, moved to F244395, Vic. DESTERNCH.
- d. On 8 March, moved to F44317, Vic. BUSHOVEN.
- e. On 12 March, moved to F664179, Vic. KRIPP.
- f. On 19 March, moved to F675211, Vic. OHLENBURG.
- g. On 26 March, moved to F723243, Vic. VETTELSCHOSS.
- h. On 27 March, moved to F850206, Vic. HORHAUSEN.
- i. On 28 March, moved to G190194, Vic. WINNEN.
- j. On 28 March, moved to G487301, Vic. FRANKENBACK, where the Rear Echelon remained at close of period.



2. Status of Supply:

a. Class I

- (1) Rations drawn daily from 9th Inf. Div. QM..
Two days 10 in 1 rations reserved maintained for all companies except Hq. Co. one day reserve only maintained by Hq. Co..

b. Class II & IV

- (1) All items of equipment and supplies of all services except Ordnance were drawn through service sections of 9th Inf. Div. Ordnance supply and maintenance by III Corps. 126th Ordnance Company in direct support.
- (2) During Beginning of period, this organization received 13 ea. Carriage Motor, 90mm Gun, M36, which was the balance of primary weapons on conversion from M10s. 12 M10s were turned in through III Corps Ordnance Channels and one was transferred to the 24th T.D. Bn. on orders of ATO, III Corps.
- (3) A total of 6 M36 destroyers were lost during the period due to direct enemy action.

c. Class III

- (1) The following amounts were drawn from 9th Inf. Div. Qm. to replace basic load.

19,670 gallons gasoline
355 gallons #30 oil
30 gallons #50 oil

- (2) The following amounts were drawn from III Corps truckheads.

20,525 gallons gasoline
770 gallons diesel fuel
435 gallons #30 oil
200 gallons #50 oil

d. Class V

- (1) The following amounts and types of ammunition were drawn during period through Corps. ASPs, for purpose of replenishing basic load and for indirect fire missions. Ammunition drawn and not fired was returned to ASP..

650 rds. 90mm HE
392 rds. 90mm APC
30 rds. 3" HE
20 rds. 3" APC
10,500 rds. Cal. 50, API

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Per JEPitts, AGAK
10 Dec-57

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3. Status of Transportation:

On Hand				Total on Hand 31 March	
Type	31 March	Gains	Losses	Serviceable	Unserviceable
Trail $\frac{1}{2}$ T	6			6	
Trail 1T	24		1	23	
Trail M10	3	3		6	
Trk. $\frac{1}{2}$ T	46	7	4	49	
Trk. 3/4T	8		3	5	
Trk. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ T	13		2	11	
Trk. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ T	22			22	
Trk. Wr. M1	1			1	
Rec. T2	3			3	
CAL. M8	6	1	1	6	
CAL. M20	30			29	1
3" Gun M10	13		13	0	
90mm M36	22	20	6	35	1
H/T M3	1			1	

4. Status of Evacuation:

See After Action Report, 9th Inf. Div.

5. Conditions of roads and status of circulation:

Good.

6. Salvage and Captured Materials:

Normal salvage evacuated by this organization.

Location of all captured material reported to 9th Inf. Division.

JOHN A. TATROE
Capt., 899th T. D. Bn.
S - 4



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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230 US ARMY

OJG/as

1 April 1945

SECTION V - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Part I

STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED

	<u>Officers</u>			<u>Enlisted Men</u>		
	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Gain</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Gain</u>	<u>Loss</u>
March 1, 1945	34			594		
March 31, 1945	29	0	5	590	0	4

Reinforcements Received: 50

Temporary Duty:

Officers : 2
Enlisted Men: 18

Part II

CASUALTIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Type</u> <u>Casualty</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>of Wound</u>
Zawada, Stephen W.	Sgt	36047965	KIA	1 March 1945
Moir, Arthur W.	Pvt 1cl	31349805	KIA	1 March 1945
Hurst Jr., Charles W.	Tec 4	33486610	LWA	1 March 1945
Heaton, Robert S.	Pvt 1cl	32375287	LWA	1 March 1945
McKinney, J. V. (I.O.)	Pvt 1cl	35720366	SWA	1 March 1945
Manchin, Walter A.	Pvt 1cl	33793924	SWA	2 March 1945
Rhodes, Thomas M.	Cpl	38487891	LWA	2 March 1945
Macaluso, Christopher J.	2nd Lt	01822811	SWA	7 March 1945
Stephen, George M.	Cpl	36303317	SWA	7 March 1945
Phillippe, Joe R.	Sgt	36177380	LWA	8 March 1945
Kirschenman, Emil (NMI)	Pvt 1cl	37324311	LWA	8 March 1945
Paulson, Herbert M.	Sgt	37019215	LWA	9 March 1945
Schumacher, Donald R.	Cpl	36424307	SWA	10 March 1945
Marks, Joseph E.	Sgt	32289898	LWA	11 March 1945
Funke, Morrell R.	Tec 4	37039847	LWA	11 March 1945
Monahan, John (NMI)	Pvt	32765248	LIA	11 March 1945
Black, James E.	Pvt	34446467	KIA	11 March 1945
Zolg, Robert J.	1st Lt	01291928	LWA	11 March 1945
Panec, Harry R.	Tec 4	35024555	SWA	11 March 1945
Knight, John C.	Tec 4	37170071	KIA	12 March 1945
Gichantek, Robert K.	Sgt	16005086	LWA	12 March 1945
Dittman, Charles E.	Pvt 1cl	33440215	LWA	12 March 1945

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Per J.E. Pitt, AGAX
70 Dec 57

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Part II

CASUALTIES

Name	Rank	ASN	Type Casualty	Date of Wound
Rekowski, Robert J.	Pvt	36764081	SWA	12 March 45
Green, Martin S.	Tec 5	38157336	SWA	12 March 45
Ross, William T.	Pvt 1cl	36501579	LWA	12 March 45
Culver, Arthur W.	Pvt 1cl	37078113	KIA	12 March 45
Coady, Gerald G.	Capt	01030458	SWA	13 March 45
Rhen, Sterling F.	2nd Lt	01825930	SWA	13 March 45
Adkins, Clyde (NMI)	Pvt	34826661	LWA	13 March 45
Wangler Jr., James P.	Pvt	42010218	SWA	13 March 45
Taylor, Frank (NMI)	Sgt	39381628	LWA	14 March 45
Dresser, Kenneth E.	Cpl	39327383	LWA	14 March 45
Whitlock, Lawrence R.	Tec 5	36061866	KIA	14 March 45
Schlagel, John A.	Cpl	32985122	KIA	15 March 45
Hostetter, Newman S.	Pvt 1cl	37489961	LWA	15 March 45
Arduser, Casper D.	Sgt	37039869	LWA	16 March 45
Stamper Jr., Anthony J.	Pvt	36878897	LWA	16 March 45
Thompson, Robert S.	Tec 4	39450398	SWA	18 March 45
Brafford, Edward B.	Sgt	35118915	KIA	18 March 45
McHenry, Robert B.	Cpl	34421438	KIA	18 March 45
Edmonds, John J.	Pvt 1cl	39841826	KIA	18 March 45
Meador, Cecil E.	Pvt 1cl	35778200	KIA	18 March 45
Oprea, Paul P.	T/Sgt	35161874	LWA	23 March 45

Part III

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS, UNIT CITATIONS

Legion of Merit

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Wear, Edward W.	6261517	M/Sgt	GO 45, ETO, 25 March 45

Croix de Guerre, French

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Bohl, Robert H.	16005187	S/Sgt	Decision No 332, Paris, 25 Jan 1945
Hande, Edwin K.	37169838	Sgt	Decision No 332, Paris, 25 Jan 1945

Bronze Star

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Chism, Samuel L.	01824663	1st Lt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 45
Dorr, Leslie B.	01030464	1st Lt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 45
Ruane, Joseph T.	37170226	M/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 45
French, John W.	35153867	T/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 45
Hartung, Arthur C.	36303270	T/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 45
Higgins, Louis K.	39602198	T/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 45

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~~SECRET~~Part IIIAWARDS AND DECORATIONS, UNIT CITATIONSBronze Star

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Oprea, Paul P.	35161874	T/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Wheeler, William J.	16020006	T/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Evitts, Howard L.	35101140	S/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Millikan, Harold B.	39375828	S/Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Markovich, Walter (NMI)	35010542	Sgt	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Borchert, August M.	37009691	Tec 4	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Hendrickson, Claude E.	37119801	Tec 4	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Hermann, LeVerne H.	36177634	Cpl	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Hicks, Lloyd J.	38064566	Cpl	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Nickerson Jr., Harry L.	39088608	Cpl	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945
Owenson, Gordon W.	37169918	Cpl	GO 44, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 27 Mar 1945

Purple Heart

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Oprea, Paul P.	35161874	T/Sgt	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Blankowitch, John (NMI)	37019095	Cpl	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Parker, Robert D.	34010029	Tec 5	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Starnes, Louis A.	33408355	Tec 5	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Kemble, Edward F.	6880261	Pvt 1cl	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Matejek, Stanley (NMI)	32181351	Pvt 1cl	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Springman Sr, Verland L.	6854452	Pvt	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945

Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Overland, Arnold C.	37169959	Tec 5	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Peasley, Robert L.	37170314	Tec 5	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Flath, Adam E.	35153879	Pvt 1cl	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945
Ziebarth, John E.	37169827	Pvt 1cl	GO 6, Hq, 899th TD Bn, 1 April 1945

For the Battalion Commander:

OTTO J. GREGOIRE
WOJG USA
Personnel Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230
U.S. Army

3 April 1945

SECTION VI - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
ANNEX II - Supporting Document.

PO No. 5, this Headquarters, dated 24 March 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:

HARLEY N. MILLER,
Major, 899th T. D. Bn.,
S-3.



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Per J. E. Ritts A6A
10 Dec 57

SECRET

Mrs., 899th TD Bn.,
Kalenborn, Germany.
241130A, Mar 1945.



O No 5

aps: Germany, 1/25,000; Sheets 5311, 5312, 5411, 5412.

a. There are no known pillbox lines, bunker strongpoints, extensive trench lines, etc. In our sector, the terrain is rough, with scattered to dense woods, especially along the many streams, and with the high ground generally open and cultivated. The road net can be classed as good, considering the terrain. The terrain itself is ideal for defense, offering concealed positions for supplies, reserves, artillery and vehicles and providing long fields of fire for direct fire weapons and long fields of vision from the critical terrain features. The dominating ridge line runs from 9626 - 0225 - 0321 - 0720 - 0921 - 120, where it forks, one fork running generally NE to 3226 and beyond, and the other running South in zigzag fashion to 1093. The next water obstacle of formidable size is the Lahr River which flows past Limburg and empties into the Rhine at Nieder and Ober Lahnstein SE of Koblenz.

The enemy has committed eight infantry, one para and three Pz divisions and one Pz Brigade, plus one assault gun battalion and one Jagdpanther battalion against the Remagen bridgehead in an effort, first to destroy it, and later, failing that, to contain it.

The enemy in our sector is the 11th Pz Div and the 340th VG Div, reinforced by the 654th Jagdpanther Bn, plus elements of 326th and 277th Divs. Both of the first two enemy divisions have been heavily engaged in recent fighting and have lost heavily, although it is known both have been constantly receiving reinforcements. The quality of troops in both divisions is good, and there is no indication of an imminent breakdown in morale. The enemy is not known to have any reserves in the immediate area which can be diverted to stop a breakthrough. 116th Pz Div, and 13th Pz Gren Div are reported reforming in the N to await the British assault, 17th SS Pz Gren Div, is in contact on 7th Army front, 2nd Pz Div and 130th Pz Lehr are in contact on 3rd Army front, and 9th and 11th Pz Divs and 106th Pz Brigade and 3rd Pz Gdr. Div are in contact at Remagen Bridgehead.

15th Pz Regt of 11th Pz Div is reported to have 4 companies left, and a total of 20 tanks. 654th TD Bn has somewhere near 25 Jagdpanthers, unless replacements have been received, a battlegroup of 6 tanks and 56 men remains here from 130th Pz Lehr.

b. III Corps attacks to the East to capture Limburg, and the high ground generally North thereof to Neunkirchen. The 99th Inf Div on our right will attack SE within zone in conjunction with our attack. The 104th Div, VII Corps, on our left, attacks to the East within zone in conjunction with our attack. The 7th Armd. Div in Corps reserve will exploit any breakthru of the Div.

The 9th Inf Div attacks to the East to overrun all enemy positions West of the line A-A. Attack to be continued at 0630 hrs to coordination with adjacent units to secure breakthru of enemy positions.

(1) The 39th RCT will attack to the East within zone and capture objectives X, Y, and Z. Upon being pinched out by the 47th RCT will prepare to be motorized to exploit any breakthrough by the 7th Armd. Div.

(2) The 47th RCT will attack to the East within zone on the morning of 25 Mar. to seize objectives shown on overlay.

(3) The 60th RCT will attack to the East within zone to seize objectives shown on overlay.

2. This Bn:

a. Will defend the Div against armored attack.

b. Will coordinate the Corps TD reserve units in the Div sector.

Bdrys, Zones of Action - See Overlay.

Date of Attack - During darkness, night 24-25 Mar 1945.

Time - As selected by Regt'l Commanders.

LD - Present line of contact.

(1)

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per GEPitts ABAR
10 Dec 57

(2) - FO No. 5

a. Co A - Two platoons in direct support of the 39th RCT. One platoon in general support of the Div. under Bn control.

- (1) Will protect the 39th RCT initially and the left flank of the Div. against armored attack.
- (2) Will upon the relief of the 39th RCT by the 47th RCT provide depth to Div AT defenses.
- (3) Be prepared to reinforce the sectors of the 47th and 60th RCT's on call this Hq upon the relief of the 39th RCT.

b. Co B - Two platoons in direct support of the 60th RCT. One platoon in general support of the Div under Bn control.

- (1) Will protect the 60th RCT and the right flank of the Div. against armored attack.
- (2) Will, with one platoon, be prepared, to reinforce the 47th RCT sector against armored attack, on call this Hq.

c. Co C - Two platoons in direct support of the 47th RCT. One platoon in general support of the Div under Bn control.

- (1) Will protect the 47th RCT and the left flank of the Div against armored attack.
- (2) Will, with one platoon, be prepared to reinforce the 60th RCT sector against armored attack, on call this Hq.

d. Rcn Co - One platoon in direct support of Co's A, B, and C.

- (1) Will provide SOP reconnaissance for the Gun Companies.
- (2) Will provide continuous reconnaissance in the Div. Sector for the forward displacement of the Corps TD reserve units in the Div sector.
- (3) Will establish and maintain sufficient OPs to cover the Div front and flanks with interlocking fields of observation.

e. Hq Co - Per Bn SOP.

x. (1) Air recognition panels will be displayed in accordance with Opn Memo No. 4, Hq. 1st US Army, dated 21 Jan 1945 as follows:

- 25 Mar 45 - - - Red Cerise panel on each armored vehicle.
- 26-31 Mar 45 - - Yellow Cerise panel " " "

- (2) Passive Air defense measures will be strictly enforced.
- (3) The importance of aggressive action and rapid advance is emphasized in order to gain surprise and quickly effect a breakthrough which can be immediately exploited by the 7th Arm'd Div. Every effort will be made to capture bridges intact.

4. Per Bn SOP and Adm O No. 39, Hq 9th Inf Div. To be issued.

5. a. See current SOI.

b. Company CP's to be reported.

c. Bn CP vicinity F704246.

TINCHER,
Comdg.

OFFICIAL:

MILLER,
S-3

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 ea Company
- 1 ea Inf Regt
- 1 ATO, 9th Inf Div
- 1 File

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DATE 10 DEC 1988 BY 148

Per J.E. Pitts, ARAK
10 Dec 57

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HEADQUARTERS

899th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230
U.S. ARMY

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3 April 1945.

SECTION VI - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
ANNEX III - S-2 Report of Operations for Month of March 1945.

During March 1945, the 899th T.D. Bn. attached to the 9th Infantry Division, continued to support the Division in it's drive across the Cologne Plain to the Rhine River vicinity and in the successful effort to hold and enlarge the Remagen bridgehead and achieve a breakthru for the 7th Armored Division.

From the 1st to the 3rd of March the chief resistance was from the 3rd Para. Div. whose Cmdg. Gen., Gen Schimpf, was captured by the 9th Division on March 8th.

On the 3rd of March elements of the 62nd VG Div were contacted. By the 8th of March the 47th RCT of the 9th Div. with C Co 899th TD BN was across the Rhine at Remagen meeting very stiff resistance on the east bank of the river where the 111th and 110th Regts of the 11th Panzer Div were identified. Resistance from the 11th Panzer Div came in numerous counterattacks of Battalion strength supported by three to five tanks and/or SP guns. The enemy continued to throw assorted units and personnel from all branches of the service into the beachhead defense, all under the control of the 11th Pz Div. On the 11th of March elements of the 106th Pz Brigade were identified on the 9th Div front. On the 13th of March elements of the 130th Panzer Lehr Div were identified.

On the 17th of March enemy units began to come into the sector from Denmark as evidenced by PW's from the KG Denmark, 340th VG Div. By 20th of March the situation had quieted except for light harrassing fire. The enemy concentrated on slowing our advance by blowing all bridges regardless of size, such tactics being successful to some degree.

The entire 9th Pz Div and all elements of the 130th Pz Lehr Div were identified in the bridgehead area. Another new identification was the 5th Para Div which made it's appearance on the 25th of March, but by the 26th of March very little resistance was being met and our armor had begun their advance out of the bridgehead area. This indicating that the enemy had withdrawn from the 9th Div sector. During the remainder of the month no organized resistance was encountered and our advance was rapid. Activity was confined to followup of the armor and mopping up in their wake.

During the greater part of the month the 899th T.D. Bn. encountered and destroyed numerous tanks, TD's (654 T.D. Bn. (German) equipped with the new Jagdpanther which mounts the 88mm gun, Pak 43), SP's and anti-tank guns in the 9th Inf Div sector which is evidenced by the list of enemy equipment destroyed by the Battalion shown below:

2 Mk III assault guns	7-88mm AT/AA guns
2 Mk IV assault guns	6-20mm AT/AA guns
3 Mk V tanks	4-37mm AT/AA guns
6 Jagdpanther tanks	5 Strongpoints
8 MG nests	1 O. P.
2 GP Vehicles	2 Bazooka teams
2 Halftracks	1 Pillbox

For the Battalion Commander:

Jack R. Van Nest
JACK R. VAN NEST,
1st Lt., 899th T.D. Bn.,

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Per J.S. Little, AGAK
10 Dec 57

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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230
U.S. ARMY

3 April 1945.

SECTION VI - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

ANNEX I - Lessons Learned.

Submitted by Captain Robert W. Young, CO, Co. A.



1. Co. A. 899th T.D. Bn. in close support of 39th Inf. Regt. attacking East of the Rhine R. in open tank country has met considerable success by the infantry taking objectives at night, followed closely by tanks and T.D.'s. The objectives, being critical terrain features, did not always provide suitable avenues of approach for concealed movement of armored vehicles. Normally the objectives consisted of small villages and towns providing sufficient cover and concealment. The success of this plan hinges on the fact that the enemy has employed his armor to fire on targets as they appear at great ranges with observed fire during daylight hours, and any movement by our troops and armor quickly draws observed direct tank and AT fire. This plan allowed TD's and tanks to move into camouflaged firing positions during the hours of darkness from which they could surprise the enemy with direct fire.

It is felt this plan has saved a considerable amount of armor because the enemy could not fire on our vehicles during our movement under cover of darkness.

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2. A platoon of Co. A. 899th T.D. Bn. in close support of a battalion of infantry during a night attack were able to place direct fire on enemy strong points, particularly an enemy machine gun nest set up within a house, from which the enemy had pinned down our attacking infantry. It was impossible to neutralize the enemy machine gun nest with ordinary methods, and due to darkness it was a difficult problem for a direct fire weapon. However, a plan was formulated to place 60mm mortar flares above and beyond the house to illuminate the area sufficiently for direct fire. One TD was placed in a firing position covering the target area prior to firing of flares. The TD was then able to fire and neutralize the target during the limited time of illumination provided by two flares.

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2e (2) - Lessons Learned. (Cont'd)

Submitted by Captain Jack G. Hubbard, CO, Co. C.

3. The Tank Destroyer Company working with an Infantry Regiment is continuously in action, and has little if any chance to rotate platoons or to take a platoon out of the line. Crews are on the go day and night with little or no rest. The crews in time, pray for a "million dollar" wound, and have nothing to look forward to but continuous artillery and AT fire. They develop the idea "Why am I so indispensable now? If I become a casualty the Company would have to get along without me".

We have found that a simple system of rotation within the company between security and Company Headquarters personnel with the destroyer crews for periods of five days gives the men something to look forward to and lets the men realize that they have not been forgotten. It gives them a chance to clean up and sit back and relax. The morale and fighting qualities of the destroyer crews has greatly increased by this method, and in addition an ample pool of trained replacements has resulted.

For the Battalion Commander:

Harley N. Miller
HARLEY N. MILLER,
Major, 899th T.D. Bn.,
S-3.



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