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HEAD QUARTERS SOUTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Period 1st to 23rd Feb '45, Inclusive

Feb
45

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 10th Armored Division
(Attn: Adjutant General)

1. Unit Strength:

- (a) At beginning of Period ~~01/01/45~~ 1 February 1945:
 - Officers - 37
 - WO - 1
 - EM - 578
- (b) At end of Period ~~23/24/45~~ February 1945:
 - Officers - 36
 - WO - 1
 - EM - 560
- (c) Battle casualties during Period:
 - Killed - Off \emptyset , EM 3
 - Missing - Off \emptyset , EM \emptyset
 - Wounded - Off 4, EM 10

2. Unit Location and Attachments:

- (a) at beginning of Period ~~01/01/45~~ 1 February '45:
 - Bn Hq, atchd CCR, 10th Arm Div, at BECHY (~~03/45~~).
 - Co "A", plus 3rd Ren Plat and 2nd Sec Pioneer Plat, Ren Co; plus one gasoline truck and two ammunition trucks, Hq Co; atchd CCB, 10th Arm Div, at DURBACH (~~5433~~).
 - Co "B", plus 1st Ren Plat and 1st Sec Pioneer Plat, Ren Co; plus one gasoline truck and two ammunition trucks, Hq Co; less 1st Plat; atchd CCA, 10th Arm Div, at BOLACOURT (~~Q1/42~~). 1st Plat Co "B" atchd Task Force STANDISH at MERLEBACH (~~Q3282~~).
 - Co "C", plus 2nd Ren Plat, Ren Co; plus one gasoline truck and two ammunition trucks, Hq Co; under Bn control at LUFTY (~~U9843~~).
 - Co "Ren", less detachments, under Bn control at BECHY (~~03/45~~).
 - Co "Hq", less detachments, under Bn control at BECHY (~~03/43~~).
- (b) At end of Period ~~23/24/45~~ February '45:
 - Bn Hq, atchd CCR, 10th Arm Div, at BEURIG (L1512).
 - Co "A", with normal attachments, atchd to CCB, 10th Arm Div, CP and 1st Plat at INSON (L1712); 2nd Plat atchd Task Force RICHARDSON at ZERP (L2411); 3rd Plat atchd Task Force RILEY, at BALDRINGEN (L2413).
 - Co "B", with normal attachments, atchd to CCA, 10th

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- Armed Div, CP and 3rd Plat at ~~XXXXXXXX~~ (11330);
 1st Plat alone Task Force ~~XXXXXXXX~~ at
~~XXXXXXXX~~ (11330); 2nd Plat alone Task Force
~~XXXXXXXX~~ at ~~XXXXXXXX~~ (11313).
- Co "C", with normal attachments, less 3rd Plat, attached
 to 370 Inf Regt, 94th Inf Div. CP and 1st Plat
 at AYL (11415); 2nd Plat at SCHODEN (11510);
 3rd Plat under Bn control at BEURIG (11512).
- Co "Ron", less attachments, under Bn control at BEURIG
 (11512).
- Co "Hq", less detachments, under Bn control at BEURIG
 (11512).

3. Daily Narrative of Events:

- 1 Feb 45: Plans perfected for support of 10 Arm'd Div C/atk plans
 Baker and Charlie. Ron continued in Area ST AVOLD
 (Q2556) - ERSTROFF (Q2342) for gun pos and combat areas.
 Remainder of Bn, no change.
- 2 Feb 45: Co "C" plat leaders reported to Team Cndrs for pro-
 planning execution of plans Baker and Charlie.
 Remainder of Bn engaged in rehabilitation and tng.
- 3 Feb 45: Co "C" held Memorial Services for men killed in action
 at BASTOGNE at 1300. At 1530 Col Wade C. Gatchell,
 Commanding Res Command, 10th Arm'd Div, presented Bronze
 Star decorations to Co "C" personnel decorated for
 BASTOGNE action.
 Remainder of Bn engaged in 10th Arm'd Div salvage drive.
- 4 Feb 45: Co "C", Hq and Hq Co continued 10 Arm'd Div salvage drive.
 Remainder of Bn continued rehabilitation and tng.
- 5 Feb to 9 Feb 45: Bn engaged in rehabilitation and tng.
- 10 Feb 45: Hq and Hq Co moved to RAME (U8650), closing at 1245.
 Co "A" moved to PELPRE (U8954), closing at 1150.
 Co "B" minus less 1st Plat, moved to VALLIERES (U8959),
 closing at 1230. 1st Plat Co "B" relieved from attach-
 ment Task Force STANDISH and rejoined co at 1500.
 Co "C" moved to PONTGY (U9447), closing at 1200.
 All attachments remain unchanged.
- 11 Feb 45: Bn engaged in rehabilitation and tng.
- 12 Feb 45: Co "A" with 3rd Ron Plat attached moved to CASSENE PT STE
 PRIVAT (U8354), closing at 1045.
 Remainder of Bn continued rehabilitation and tng.
- 13 Feb 45: Co "A" moved to RECHLEVRE (U9350), closing at 1930.
 Remainder of Bn continued rehabilitation and tng.
- 14 Feb 45: Bn engaged in rehabilitation and tng.

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- 15 Feb 45: 1st Ren Plat initiated Engineer-Ren of XX Corps rd not. Remainder of Bn engaged in tng program.
- 16 Feb 45: 1st Ren Plat continues ren of rd not. Remainder of Bn engaged in tng program.
- 17 Feb 45: Bn engaged in tng program.
- 18 Feb 45: Ren of MOSELLE R line initiated on Div O in area of 2nd Cav Gp preparatory to possible employment in direct fire pos supporting assault on SAAR-MOSELLE triangle. Four officer patrols employed. Remainder of Bn continued tng.
- 19 Feb 45: Bn moved from METZ (U2659) area N to support Div atk on SAAR-MOSELLE triangle. All units enroute at end of period.
- 20 Feb 45: Bn CP opened at SIERCK (Q0094) at 0310.
 Co "A", with normal attachments, atchd to CCB closed in HIRLING (U9939).
 Co "B", with normal attachments, atchd CCA, closed in UNTERPERL (Q0298) at 0530. At 1030 1st Plat Co "B", atchd Task Force RICHARDSON, moved to SINZ (L0504) and was held in reserve. 2nd Plat, Co "B", also atchd Task Force RICHARDSON moved to direct fire pos vic MIRF (L0006) at 1100 with mission of protecting Div Right (East) boundary. In the afternoon, Co "B", less 1st and 2nd Plats displaced forward to KUNZINGEN (L0204) with same mission assigned to 2nd Plat.
 Co "C", with normal attachments, atchd to CCR, closed in RUSTROFF (Q0194) at 0345, then displaced forward in reserve to BESCH (L0101) supporting the advance of CCR. Its Co, less detachments, closed in RUSTROFF (Q0194) at 0325.
- 21 Feb 45: Bn CP moved with CCR Hq to WINCHERINGEN (L0515), opening at 1230.
 Co "A", less 2nd Plat, moved from HIRLING (U9939) to assembly area vic FORTZ (L0000), in reserve of CCB. 2nd Plat atchd to 4254 Pz Bn at 0400 and occupied indirect fire pos vic MERKELACHEN (L0203).
 Co "B", less 1st and 2nd Plats, moved from KUNZINGEN (L0204) to assembly pos vic (L0514) in CCA reserve. Five prisoners taken in MOSCHHOLZ (L0706) during the morning. 1st Plat Co "B" atchd Task Force RICHARDSON escorted supply vehicles to UNSDORF (L0916) during the night of 20-21 Feb 45. Small arms fired on on in church steeple at MERKELACHEN (L0203) during morning, two prisoners were taken and estimated five on killed. Five prisoners taken in UNSDORF (L0916) without resistance. 1st Plat CP located at UNSDORF (L0916). 2nd Plat of Co "B", atchd to TF/RICHARDSON, displaced forward

supporting the atk on TAWERN (11202) at 1400 after taking nine prisoners at KIRF (10303) during the morning. 2nd Plat CP located vic TAWERN (11202). Co "C", atchd to CCR displaced forward to KILFANT at 0500 in general support of TF/CHERRY and TF/STANDISH.

22 Feb 45: 1st CP moved with CCR CP to MITTEL (10617) opening at 1900.

Co "A" CP remained at PORTE (11000). 1st Plat of Co "A" moved to direct fire pos on high ground vic (11315) to support SAAR R crossing. 2nd Plat-Co "A" fired 131 rds HE 140 fz reinf fires of 425 FA Bn on targets E of SAAR R from indirect fire pos vic MERZKIRCHEN (10309). Results not observed.

Co "B", less 2nd Plat, under operational control of 376 Inf Regt, 94th Inf Div, moved CP to AYL (11415) during hours of darkness. 1st Plat Co "B" with 1st Ren Plat moved via OMSDORF (10916) to direct fire pos on high ground vic (11315) in support of 376 Inf SAAR R crossing. 2nd Plat, Co "B", remained atchd TF/RICHARDSON in TAWERN (11202). 3rd Plat, Co "B", plus 1st Sec Pioneer Plat moved to direct fire pos on high ground vic (11415) in support of 376 Inf SAAR R crossing.

Co "C" CP no change. At 1800 2nd Ren Plat and three destroyers from 3rd Plat Co "C" moved through woods NW of ROUSSELMOEN (10710) searching for an high velocity direct fire weapon reported firing on WINGERSINGEN (10513). No en found in assigned area and all elms returned to bivouac area at 1900.

Hq Co, less normal detachments, moved from HUSTROFF (10101) to DILMAR (10407) closing at 1700.

23 Feb 45: 1st CP no change.

Co "A" CP no change. 1st Plat Co "A" moved to direct fire pos on W bank of SAAR R vic (11515) supporting assault of 376 Inf at 2220. No targets appeared and crossing was successful. Plat withdrew to AYL (11415) without firing before daylight, 23 Feb 45. At 0600 Plat was released to operational control of Co "B" 600 TD Bn and held in reserve in AYL (11415) until 1700, when released to rejoin Co "A". Plat rejoined co at PORTE (11000) at 2000. 2nd Plat Co "A" moved to indirect fire pos at RÄMLINGEN-LIPPENDORF (11015) at 0800. Plat still atchd to 425 FA Bn. 3rd Ren Plat lost one 1/4-T truck to mortar fire while on ren vic BILSEL MAUCEN (11616) at 1400.

Co "B", attachment and CP no change until 2000, then released to CCA and CP moved to assembly area (11415). 1st plat Co "B" fired 92 rds APCOF and 88 rds HE 140 fz direct fire on pillboxes along E bank of SAAR R from pos on high ground vic (11414). Results of fire not definitely established. Plat lost one M-30 AM-4 car in an minefield at (11415). At 2000 1st Plat Co "B"

was relieved by 2nd Plat Co "C" and rejoined co at assembly pos (L1416). 2nd Plat Co "E", atchd TF/RICHARDSON, moved to direct fire pos on W bank of SAAR R and fired 45 rds HE M48 fz and 8 rds APCBDF at en pillboxes in vic FITZGER (L1524). 20th Cav CP reported five pillboxes destroyed, one badly damaged, and estimated 30 en killed. 3rd Plat Co "B" fired 61 rds HE M48 fz and 2 rds APCBDF on en installations in SCHROEDER (L1616) and vic from pos on high ground vic L1616. At 1430 one section moved into BIEBEL-HAUSEN (L1616) and received heavy S/A, 120mm mortar and arty fire. Three men wounded by mortar fire, one by S/A. Friendly smoke obscured any possible targets and plat withdrew without firing at 1600. At 2200 3rd Plat Co "B" was relieved in pos by 1st and 3rd Plats, Co "C", and moved to assembly pos (L1416). Co "C", attachment and CP no change until 1800, then CP moved to AYL (L1415). Search for en gun resumed during morning without success. At 1335, 2nd Plat Co "C" ordered to assembly pos vic AYL (L1415), prepared to relieve Co "B" in pos under cover of darkness. At 1800, remainder of co moved to assembly pos and relief of Co "B" effected at 2200.

24 Feb 45: Bn CP no change.
 Co "A" atchmt and CP no change. 2nd Plat Co "A" fired 200 rds HE M48 fz reinforcing fires of 423 Pz bn on targets E of SAAR R from pos at WILHELM-LEIBER (L1413). 3rd Ren Plat atchd to TF/RINEY at 1000 with mission of patrolling W bank of SAAR R between NIEDER LUTHEM (L1513) and SAARBURG (L1412) between hrs of 1700 and 0700 nightly.
 Co "B" less 2nd Plat, in assembly pos L1416 awaiting movement of CGA across SAAR R. At 1200, 1st Plat Co "B" and 1st Ren Plat alerted for immediate movement across SAAR R by ferry. 2nd Plat Co "B" remains atchd TF/RICHARDSON vic TAUBAN (L1502).
 Co "C" atchd CGA with CP at AYL (L1415). 3rd Plat fired 14 rds HE and 3 rds APC at en installations in vic SCHROEDER (L1616). 2nd Ren Plat registered 31mm mortar on same targets. Two men killed, one from Ren Co, one from Co "C". One en AT gun destroyed. 2nd Plat Co "C" fired 24 rds HE and 2 rds APC at en installations vic UNT KASELMUELE (L1514) from pos on high ground vic L1414.

25 Feb 45: Bn CP and atchmt no change.
 Co "A" entire unit enroute to SAAR R crossing vic TAUBAN (L1705).
 Co "E" less 2nd Plat awaiting movement of CGA across SAAR R. 1st Plat Co "B" moved across SAAR R vic CGAPOS, move completed at 0500. At 0730 one gun

section atchd Team ISB/MS. 2nd Plat remains atchd to TP/RICHARDSON.

Co "B" (✓), CP and atchmts, no change. 1st Plat Co "C" sent one gun section to pos on the W bank of SAAR R of BISHOP-HUTTEN (11616) supporting inf assault of pillboxes vic SCHROBEN (11616). Three pillboxes destroyed. 2nd Plat Co "C" fired at en installations vic KUNZELMANN (11514) from high ground vic 11414 until 1400, when "no fire" order was received by plat. Results of fire not definitely established, but four pillboxes reported by inf as being destroyed in this target area. 3rd Plat Co "C" fired on en pillboxes and targets of opportunity vic SCHROBEN (11616). At 0800 seven prisoners were captured on W bank of SAAR R without resistance.

26 Feb 45:

En CP, atchd CCR, no change.

Co "A" (✓), less 2nd Plat, atchd to CCB, moved from FORTS (11409) at 1815 and closed in IMACH (11712) at 0930 after crossing SAAR R. 2nd Plat Co "A" relieved from atchmt 423 Pz Bn, placed under operational control CO CCB, and moved from RUELINGEN-LITDORF (10910) to MAURIG (11609).

Co "B" (-) moved from AYI (11415) at 1830, enroute to SAAR R crossing at end of period. 1st Plat Co "B" moved at dawn to IMACH (11712), then returned to GOLFEN and established a rd block on E approach to town. 2nd section moves vic IMACH and established rd block on IMACH-GOLFEN Rd. At 1200 entire plat atchd TP/CHAMBERLAIN and at 2100 moved toward 11516 (12411). 2nd Plat Co "B" atchd TP/RICHARDSON, moved from SIMMERN (11230) at 1800, enroute to SAAR R crossing at end of period. 1st Ren Plat, under operational control CO CCB, moved from AYI (11415) at 1845 to GOLFEN (12016) closing at 1816, furnished flank protection for CO. Hq enroute to cross SAAR R.

Co "C" (✓), pos, atchmt and CP, no change. 1st and 3rd Plats destroyed three pillboxes and five houses supporting 376 Inf assault. Fired at mortar emplacement and on inf in pos. Antitank 10 en killed, 10 wounded. 2nd Plat fired at on inf and destroyed one pillbox. 168 rds APC and 171 rds HL expended. During morning hours of darkness, all plats withdrew to assembly pos vic AYI (11415) and at 1400 moved to GOLFEN. At 1900, Co, less 3rd Plat, returned to original firing pos at 11516 and 11614. 2nd Plat and 3rd Ren Plat alerted for ferry movement across SAAR R. 3rd Plat, atchd CCR, remained in GOLFEN (12016).

27 Feb 45:

En CP atchd CCR moved across SAAR R at 2315 to MAURIG (11609), opening at 0345.

Co "A" (✓), less 2nd and 3rd Plats, CP in IMACH (11712)

atand CCB. 1st Plat Co "A" furnished local security for CP CCB. 2nd Plat, atand TF/RICHMOND and moved at 2020/4 to CCB (12310) to assist blocking approaches from S and E. 3rd Plat Co "A" atand to TF/RILEY spearheaded atk on EAT (12411) at 2020/3. 3rd non Plat, on a dismounted patrol vic (1220116) engaged in fire fight with on patrol of unretained strength, 2 on killed, 2 L¹ trucks lost as result of fire. Six PW captured by 3rd Plat Co "A" in ZERP action. One AM killed, one Officer wounded, and two AM wounded by arty fire in 12300 (12312).

Co "B" (✓), less 1st and 2nd Plats, closed in BURIG (11512) at 12/4, in CCB Reserve. 1st Plat Co "B", at 12/4, arrived in vic ZEM (12411). At 14/4 plat atand from O'GRADY with mission of protecting Right (South) flank from AT pos. At 18/4 plat moved to DUMMACH (12515). 2nd Plat atand TF/O'HARA vic (12512).

Co "C" (✓), less 3rd Plat, atand 273 Inf with CP in AVL (11415). 1st Plat supported inf assault of SCHODEN (11616) from pos on high ground at 11516 by neutralizing pillboxes. 2nd Plat crossed SARR R by ferry during the night and reconnoitered for pos to support inf assault. 2nd non Plat fired 81mm mortar on targets vic SCHODEN. 3rd Plat, atand CCB, closed in BURIG (11512) at 12/4.

No Co (-) moved from DIMAR (124/7) to BURIG (11512) cycling at 11/4.

20 Feb 45: In CP, no change.

Co "A" (✓), less 3rd and 3rd Plats, remained in EADON (11712). 2nd Plat, atand TF/RICHMOND, moved to ZEM (12411) at 12/4, and continued blocking mission to S and E. 3rd Plat Co "A", atand TF/RILEY, moved vic DUMMACH (12515) at 12/4. Heavy arty fire in ZERP area. One Officer and two AM wounded, one L¹ truck lost.

Co "B" (✓), less 1st and 2nd Plats, moved at 11/4 vic PULVER (123/4) atand CCB with mission of protecting town from S/A and E fire coming from woods S of town. 2nd section of 1st Plat, Co "B" moved to ZEM at 12/4 on AT alert. 20 AM of materialized and section returned at 12/4. 1st sec furnished local security for TF/DUMMACH. At 14/4 3rd sec atand from EADON and moved to pos on N edge of PULVER (123/4). Nine PW MS, 3 PW APC and 2 PW HVAP fired at pillboxes. 49 PW captured. 2nd Plat atand TF/O'HARA in vic BURIG (11512).

Co "C" (✓), less 3rd Plat. Co remained in AVL (11515). 1st Plat Co "C", with support from 2nd non Plat, continued to fire from pos vic 11516. An inf tank under fire and got 5 killed, 7 pillboxes destroyed. 40 PW MS and 20 PW APC expended. At darkness one gun section and one non section moved approximately 12/4 via 11516

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preparing to support inf in further advance N. 2nd Plat, on E side of R, placed one gun section on pos vic 11015 and fired 17 rcs HE and 7 rcs AP at two pillboxes. At darkness plat withdrew to COMBUN (11010). Heavy mortar and arty fire received in 2nd Plat firing pos throughout period. 3rd Plat, atchd CGC, remained in reserve in L 11010 (11010).

4. The following equipment was destroyed as a direct result of action by this battalion during the period covered by this report:

Pillboxes	- 20
AT Guns	- 1
Ln PSW	- 70
Ln Killed (est)	- 50

5. No further changes are recommended in T/O and T/A.

6. Combat Notes:

(a) Gun company commanders and platoon leaders are enthusiastic about results obtained with T105 fuze on 70mm HE when used against pillboxes.

For the Battalion Commander:

JOHN M. ROGH
Captain, Cav (20)
C-8.