

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
823rd TD Bn.
APO #230

GL-103-① B 7 D
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14 October 44

SUBJECT: Siegfried Line.

TO : G-2, 30th Division
APO #30

Before the actual assault of the Siegfried Line two companies were in indirect fire position and fired 7701 rounds of HE on pillboxes and houses inside Germany.

After we took up direct fire positions close to the Siegfried Line 164 rounds of APC and 986 rounds of HE were fired direct into pillboxes and OP's, at ranges from 1500 to 2800 yards. The effect in most cases was good. After 5 rounds of APC was fired a crack or hole would appear in the pillbox then 10 to 15 rounds of HE was thrown in enlarging the hole to about two feet in diameter. If the pillbox didn't appear to be on fire more HE would be thrown in the hole. On firing on ranges of 2600 yards and over dispersion was great and sensings were very difficult, therefore, more ammunition was required. The average being 10 APC and 30 HE. The best effect was at ranges from 1500 to 2000 yards. The guns had to be moved and dug in position at night because of enemy observation.

On one occasion a pillbox was identified but we were unable to fire from our position on it, so one gun and one half track was moved over a hill down into a flat for a distance of 500 yards and in plain view of the enemy. The gun went into position, fired 16 rounds, destroying the pillbox and returned to its former position in eight minutes.

On the actual assault of the line one company gave close support to the attacking infantry, firing on pillboxes and enemy personnel. After the initial breach of the line and the attack turned South one company stayed on the West side of the Wurm River and fired into the enemy pillboxes and personnel from the flank. With fire from one company coming from the North and fire from another from the West the enemy would come out with a white flag and surrender to the approaching infantry. On some occasions he would abandon the pillbox and fight which gave us an excellent opportunity to fire direct into him with HE.

Most of the enemy captured were from various units and the morale was low.

Enemy artillery was very heavy throughout the operation.

For the Commanding Officer:

/s/ George W. Sitz,
GEORGE W. SITZ,
Captain, Cavalry,
S-2.

Annex 4f