

~~RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION~~

LIBRARY
US ARMY ARMOR SCHOOL
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121

LIBRARY
US ARMY ARMOR SCHOOL
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121

~~RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION~~

8702TB101

UNCLASSIFIED

846.57

AFTER ACTION REPORT

702ND TANK BATTALION

AUGUST thru MAY 1945

22 May 56
AK

Classification cancelled or changed to
by authority of **DOD DIR. STAFF**, by **JOHN L. GRANT**
on.....

UNCLASSIFIED

Captain, Armor
Ch. Scy & Doc Branch

9 JUN 1959

Examples

LIBRARY
U.S. ARMY ARMOR SCHOOL
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF, AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO,
THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT SECTION, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION S-2,
BUILDING T-5, (T-1782)

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

15 October 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report - August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2b, Section III, Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, the following comments, observations and recommendations are submitted:

- a. ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING: Each Infantry Division should have one composite Tank Battalion (T/O 17-25) and one TD Battalion (S.P.), as an organic part of the Division. The composition of the organic tank battalion to be modified as follows:
- (1) Present Medical Detachment to augment Division Medical Personnel in lieu of the attached Medical Detachment.
 - (2) Mortar Platoon to be deleted as Division artillery and supporting chemical mortars and organic 60mm and 81mm mortars are sufficient.
 - (3) Assault guns to be placed in line companies, two (2) per Company, in lieu of Headquarters Company, except for training, when they will be grouped.
 - (4) Reconnaissance Platoon: Car half-track to be replaced by M8 Armored Car, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks to be equipped with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch armor plate in front and sides along driver and assistant driver, and thirty caliber machine gun (air-cooled) on pedestal mount in front of assistant driver.
 - (5) Headquarters Section, Battalion Headquarters, to be equipped with M8 armored car in lieu of car half-track M-3A1.
 - (6) Maintenance Platoon: This platoon to be augmented by one (1) M1 wrecker, six (6) tank mechanics, one (1) shop truck with selected fourth echelon tools.

RESTRICTED

- (7) **Liaison Section:** Each tank battalion to be furnished a liaison section consisting of three (3) Second Lieutenants, three (3) drivers, Private or Private First Class, for dispatch to respective combat teams. These officers and enlisted men to be trained as liaison, communication and reconnaissance personnel. This is very necessary in normal operations.

b. **PERSONNEL:**

- (1) **Maintenance Platoon:** Add six (6) tank mechanics, two (2) Technicians Fourth Grade, Three (3) Technicians Fifth Grade, and one (1) crew chief, Sergeant.
- (2) **Drivers:** T/O should be increased to furnish assistant truck drivers for each truck, 2½ ton or larger.
- (3) **Basics:** Basics removed by current T/O changes, should be retained for use by the Companies as replacement crews or drivers.
- (4) **Replacements:** All replacements furnished a combat tank company, to be trained as either drivers, tank commanders or gunners. This training to include actual firing and training in current tank weapons.

c. **EQUIPMENT:** The following changes, additions, and deletions of equipment are recommended from experience gained on Carolina, Tennessee, California, Louisiana Maneuvers, and in the Combat Zone.

- (1) For the Liaison Section, three (3) ½ ton trucks with at present time SCR 508 or 528, in lieu of SCR 510, which radio has been found too unreliable for normal use over varied terrain. A small AM set with a sure voice range of two (2) miles is preferred to the above. This set to net with Infantry of SCR 506.
- (2) All tanks to be equipped with telephones EE8B, placed on the rear deck, rear of turret, or rear slope plate, for direct communication between the Infantry Soldier and Tank Commander. If this is not feasible or desirable, the control boxes placed in a similar position should be installed for above communication and necessary microphones be provided.

RESTRICTED

All tanks to be equipped with illuminated glass turret covers to obviate the high casualty rate among tank commanders.

- (3) Each tank company should be provided under current T/E with three (3) SCR 536 (One (1) per platoon leader - tank company), for direct communication between tank platoon leaders and supporting Infantry commanders, while on the move. This radio to be placed in such a position that the tank commander will not have to hold it in his hand. This might be done by the use of the issue throat microphone with a two position switch, one position for the tank radio, and one position for the SCR 536.
- (4) Trucks: All trucks in the Battalion Supply and Transportation platoon of Service Company, and Company-Administrative-Mess and Supply Sections, less kitchen trucks, should be of four (4) ton capacity, in lieu of two and one-half (2½) ton as now issued, due to the necessity of overloading the present vehicles during normal operations due to supply needs and long hauling distances.

The addition of one (1) 3/4 ton truck, weapons carrier type, for the use of the Battalion Supply Officer, is highly desired and recommended, as no provision is made for adequate space for maintenance of records and parts. Also one (1) ½ ton truck for the Transportation Officer, for convoy control and allied transportation duties.

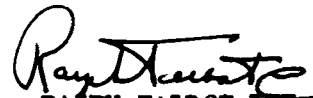
Further, one (1) 3/4 ton weapons carrier is desired in the Battalion Maintenance Platoon for carrying all spare radio equipment.

- (5) Radios: In addition to the comments above for the liaison section, it is desired that more positive communication be available to the Battalion Commander. The installations of the SCR 506 or similar AM radio in each Company Commander's tank, Battalion Commander's tank, in addition to those already installed under current T/O & E, is considered necessary and desirable for adequate control under all conditions of terrain.
- (6) Ammunition: An illuminating flare for the 81mm mortar, and the tank two (2) inch mortar, are highly desirable for issue and for use in night attacks against/or from the enemy.

RESTRICTED

- (7) Anti-aircraft mount: The anti-aircraft mount on all tanks should be the 30 caliber light machine gun in lieu of the 50 caliber machine gun as provided in current T/E.
- (8) Personal equipment: In tank casualties of this unit and from information gathered from other units, each tank has burned when hit and does not permit personnel to evacuate any equipment other than that carried on the person. Therefore, it would be a great saving to the Government and afford future protection to the personnel, for the individual arm of each tank crew member to be the automatic pistol with shoulder holster, in lieu of the Thompson Sub-Machine gun M-3 as now authorized. It is highly desirable however, that one (1) sub-machine gun M-3, be an integrate part of the equipment of the tank.

The addition of one (1) 2½ ton truck to each combat company for company supply, will enable the individual equipment of the men to be carried therein when combat is eminent, and also afford transportation for supplies and personnel awaiting tank replacements (tank).


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, 702nd Tank Bn,
Commanding.

REF

PERSONNEL ROSTER OF BATTALION S-4 SECTION

SIDNEY COHEN, Captain, 01013945, - Battalion Supply Officer
DALE G. ROBERTS, Captain, 01011766 - Ass't Battalion Supply Officer
J. EDGAR SWANIN, 1st Lt, 01010688 - Transportation Officer
JOHN B. O'BRIEN, WOJG, W-2127907 - Ass't Battalion Supply Officer
Peter J. Yaremich, T/Sgt, 31009283 - Battalion Supply Sergeant
Joseph Riszone, S/Sgt, 33436008 - Ass't Battalion Supply Sergeant
Merl R. Depp, Sgt, 37016689 - Battalion Supply Clerk

REF

SECRET

[REDACTED]
RESTRICTED

a. Concentration On The Continent: (6 August 1944)

The Battalion, less light tank company, arrived at "Utah Beach" in France, 6 August 1944, on Landing Ships Tank and Landing Craft Tank. Disembarkation commenced at 1400 and progressed under supervision of Naval Officers with the cooperation of the Battalion Officers present. Traffic control and guides to the allocated concentration area was performed by the static beach traffic control Military Police.

The Battalion, less light tank company, one 105mm Howitzer Tank, one Tank Recovery Vehicle, and one Mine Beater assembled in Transient Area "B".

(1) Supply: During this period Class I and III Supplies were replenished, and Unit Train stocks were brought back to prescribed loads from available supplies in transient area. There was no expenditures on Class V Supplies.

(2) For a list of major item shortages existing upon arrival in France, see enclosure number 1 to this report.

(3) Nine each Exploder, Mine TIE3 being transported by this Organization from the United Kingdom to the Continent for the Third United States Army were turned over to the static Military Police.

b. Move to Brecy: (7 and 8 August 1944)

The Battalion, including the light tank company, which had joined the Battalion, late 6 August 1944, moved in two march serials to vicinity of Brecy. Serial No. 1 consisting of wheeled vehicles and half-track vehicles; Serial No. 2 consisting of all track-laying vehicles. It was unnecessary to refuel enroute. Contemplated use of Battalion to counterattack a German attempt to recapture Avranches did not materialize. Class I and III supplies were replenished from Army Depots during this period.

c. Movement to Soulge Le Bruan: (8 August 1944)

When the attempt made by the Germans to recapture Avranches did not materialize the Battalion, while enroute, received orders to join the 80th Infantry Division located at Soulge Le Bruan for reinforcement. Replenishment of Class I and Class III supplies was effected during halts. Upon closing in at the bivouac areas, S-4 contacted appropriate staff officers concerning supply procedure and submitted first of daily telegrams. Requisitions covering shortages as listed in Annex No. 1 were presented in addition to requisitions submitted to cover subsequent shortages and needs. During this period troops were consuming C, D, K & U rations.

Until this time there was no Quartermaster Bathing Unit available, however a small lake in the bivouac area afforded the personnel of this Command adequate washing and recreation facilities in the form of swimming. Adequate guards were furnished by the 319th Infantry Regiment around the lake.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

d. Movement to Chassille: (9 August 1944)

After the movement of the Battalion to the north of Chassille, Companies A and B were attached to the 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments respectively to form combat teams. In order to facilitate supply of these companies, two fuel and lubricant and one ammunition trucks were attached to each of the Companies. Replenishment of Class III and Class V Supplies during ensuing minor battles was accomplished by rotating the trucks already attached to Companies were trucks from Battalion Trains. This afforded an ideal opportunity to inventory and replenish the supplies on these vehicles in the rear echelon. Class I and Class II supplies were obtained by daily trips to Battalion Rear Echelon by respective Supply Sergeants, utilizing the Company kitchen truck.

A gratuitous issue of PX items consisting of tooth powder, paste, soap, cigarette, matches, razor blades, etc. was made at this time. The rapid movement forward made it impractical to set up a permanent PX. Information received from Higher Headquarters informed us that gratuitous issue of PX items would be issued weekly until establishment of unit PX.

A small supply of ordnance spare parts and accessories were received at this time but none of the major items.

e. Operations at Sille La Guillaume and Evron (15 & 16 August 1944)

Attachment of supply trains to A and B Companies proved very satisfactory. The carrying of Duffle Bags on the back deck of the tanks proved impractical and immediate steps were taken to have them stored. Battalion S-4 Officers contacted the Civil Affairs Section concerning storage facilities, and without delay facilities were made available at Le Mans. The personnel of the Battalion were given the opportunity to retain such items important to the ensuing operations. Impregnated clothing was ordered to remain in Duffle Bags by the Battalion Commander for storage. Gas Masks, however, were retained by all personnel. The absence of the Duffle Bags allowed greater freedom for operations in the vehicles.

After this operation, it was decided that the Company Commander of Service Company and the Transportation Officer were duplicating many tasks in conjunction with the movement of supplies in the Transportation Platoon. In this connection it was decided to put the Company Commander of Service Company in charge of Class V supplies and the Transportation Officer in charge of Class III supplies. Both Officers were to turn over to the S-4 Section the status of the above mentioned supplies. This later proved entirely satisfactory, however, many requests for supplies and equipment continued to come down from Officers and Enlisted Men of the Companies other than through the appropriate supply sergeants, which resulted in duplicate requests being filled.

[REDACTED]

f. Movement to Argentan: (17 and 18 August 1944)

The march to the vicinity south of Argentan was a tactical move and all vehicles were restocked with Class I, III and V supplies. A sufficient number of Class III trucks were attached to each march unit for refueling enroute. Companies consumed Class I supplies on hand. No supply problems occurred.

g. Operations at Argentan: (19 to 26 August 1944)

The tactical situation did not allow for setting up of Company kitchens; therefore, mostly 10 in 1 rations were issued with some C and K rations. Line companies requested K rations for consumption during operations. A B ration was issued at the conclusion of the operation. A Quartermaster Laundry, fumigation and bath unit was made available to the Battalion on the 24th of August for the first time on the continent. Up to this time members of this Command took full advantage of existing streams for bathing and washing of clothing. Supply route for Class III and Class V supplies was excessively long, however, there were no critical shortages during this period. Evacuation of casualties was handled through the collection stations of the appropriate combat teams. Due to the open terrain it was necessary to establish forward loading ambulance points in front of the appropriate collecting stations. During this operation duplicate requests continued to come in for supplies making it impossible to determine the definite needs for the companies.

h. Movement to Chalen: (26 to 29 August 1944)

This move covered approximately 300 miles which involved a sizeable Class III problem which was met very satisfactorily due to the following arrangements at a meeting between the S-2, S-4 and Chief of Staff. It was decided to move the Battalion separate from the Division and attached Units. Since road priority could not be obtained to move the Battalion prior to the Division, the Battalion moved out at the tail end of the Division and attached Units. At the suggestion of the Chief of Staff, the Battalion S-4 left approximately six hours before the Battalion for Army Headquarters approximately 180 miles forward. Here he contacted Army Quartermaster Class III Officer and endeavored to get locations of appropriate D/P.'s along the three hundred mile route. Only one D.P. was available, however, a second point was given whereby gasoline could be picked up at a captured Air-Strip, southwest of Orleans, where it was being flown in by U.S. transports. The S-4 Officer immediately back-tracked the route and picked up empty gas trucks from tail end of Battalion column and led them to the D.P. Thus it was possible for the Unit to refuel without loss of time. After each refueling period the empty gas trucks were pulled out fifteen minutes prior to the Battalion moving out, and were taken to the gas dump located forward in the direction of the movement. By the time these trucks were refueled and returned to the route of march, the Battalion column was well ahead and the full gas trucks were able to pull up at the tail of the column without any confusion.

RESTRICTED

h. Movement to Chalon: (26 to 29 August 1944 Cont'd.)

Class I supplies were distributed to all companies at halts from reserve stocks on unit train. Water was also distributed at the halts and replenished at the nearby D.P.'s. No Class V supplies were necessary. The Battalion closed in at its assembly area after a march of 54 hours duration. Class I and Class III supplies were replenished from appropriate Corp D.P.'s.

i. Operations at Chalons: (29 to 31 August 1944)

Class III supply point was ninety miles back and supplies were growing increasingly critical in all units and the Supply Point. The shortage was alleviated by the capture of enemy D.P. at Coolus, approximately 80,000 gallons of gasoline being stored in tank cars. Eight trucks were sent to the railroad siding, but upon arrival it was discovered that the captured gasoline was of too low an octane rating for operation of the tanks; therefore, only 18,000 gallons was picked up for operations of general purpose vehicles. This proved detrimental to the efficient operation of the vehicles, this was corrected by mixing the captured gasoline with American 80 octane gasoline. On the 30th of August, the Battalion moved to St. Etienne north of Chalons, where the Battalion was released from the Division in order to perform long overdue maintenance. The 501st Heavy Maintenance Company Tank was attached for additional support in order to accomplish this work in the least amount of time. The delay in arrival of replacement parts and the increasingly shortage of Class III supplies delayed the Battalion until the 5th of September. At this point Class III supplies were controlled by allocation made by Corps. A special allocation of 14,000 gallons permitted the Battalion to move to the vicinity south of Flirey the 6th of September.

At the time much captured material, particularly vehicles, was retained by units of this Organization. Captured Class I supplies, which included cheese and butter were issued to the troops to supplement the ration.

Annex No. 1 to Section III

Major Item Shortages:

Class I: No shortages

Class II:

ARMY AIR FORCES

Inter-aircraft control lamp, C3 ea 24

Chemical Warfare Service

No shortages

Engineer

Mine, probe, M1 ea 9

Medical

No shortages

Ordnance

Binooculars, M16 or M17 ea 5

Mount, Range Finder, M58 ea 12

Gun, 30 Cal, MG, fixed, M 1919 A5 ea 1

Small percentage of spare parts and equipment

Tool sets, Special, Combat Vehicles

Quartermaster

Outfit, foot measuring, M1943 ea 1

Selector, qualification, card ea 1

Outfit, cooking, one burner ea 35

Signal

Panel, AL 141 w/case ea 17

Test Set, I-176 ea 5

Voltmeter, I-166 ea 5

Small percentage of spare parts and accessories for radios.

Annex No. 2 to Section III

RESTRICTED

Class III:

No shortages

Class IV:

A small percentage of vehicular spare parts.

Class V:

Ordnance

Shell, Gun, Mortar, smoke, W.P.

rd

100

Engineer

No shortages

Chemical

No shortages

REC

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

RESTRICTED

20 October 1944.

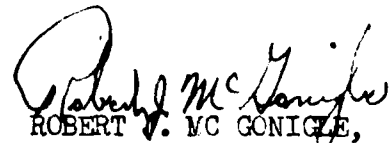
SUBJECT: Transmittal of After Action Report - September 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. Transmitted herewith is After Action Report - September 1944
in accordance with AR 345-105 as amended by Change 3.

2. S-2 file, message books and overlays are submitted herewith
as supporting papers.

For the Commanding Officer:


ROBERT J. MC GONIGLE,
CWO USA,
Personnel Adjutant.

16 Incls
1 S-2 File
1 Overlay File
5 Copies of After Action Report
9 Message Books

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

RESTRICTED


19 October 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - September 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. The comments, observations and recommendations submitted in After Action Report for August 1944, appended hereto and marked Appendix #1, are resubmitted, and the following recommendations submitted:

- a. ORGANIZATION: Upon consideration of the tactical use of the Tank Battalion attached to the Infantry Division, it is recommended that the light tank company be deleted and one (1) self-propelled tank destroyer company be substituted therefor. The conversion of the personnel from the light tank company to the self-propelled company, would be very easy, inasmuch as all men were originally trained on the medium tank, and the only training necessary would be that required to familiarize the gunner and loader with the characteristics of the 76mm or 90mm gun, types of ammunition, and capabilities and limitations of the weapon.


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, 702nd Tank Bn,
Commanding.

- 1 Appendix
1 After Action Letter for August 1944.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ATTENTION

2

SA. THE NEW YORK

IN THE

1 SEPTEMBER 1944 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1944

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

PRE WAR ROSTER OF BATTALION S-A SECTION

SIDNEY COHEN, Captain, 01013945 - Battalion Supply Officer
DALE G. ROBERTS, Captain, 01011766 - Ass't Battalion Supply Officer
J. EDGAR SWANIN, 1st Lt, 01010608 - Transportation Officer
JOHN B. O'NEIL, WO3, W-2127907 - Ass't Battalion Supply Officer
Peter J. Yaremich, T/Sgt, 31009283 - Battalion Supply Sergeant
Joseph Hixson, S/Sgt, 33436008 - Ass't Battalion Supply Sergeant
Merl R. Dopp, Sgt, 37026689 - Battalion Supply Clerk

RESTRICTED

a. Operations at the Mesalla River: (7 to 20 September 1944)

Company C was attached to the 319th Infantry Regiment forming a third combat team and Company D was attached to the 60th Reconnaissance Squadron. Class III and V supply trucks were attached to these companies in order to facilitate supplying these companies. Staff Officers from this Organization acted as liaison between the tank company and the Infantry Regiment. During the first week and a half of operations at the Mesalla, these liaison Officers ordered supplies. It was discovered that this was another duplication of requests, and an attempt was made to limit the requests to emergency requirements only.

The situation was alleviated by daily visits to each Company by the S-4 or assistant S-4 to check their requirements. The Supply Sergeants continued to return to the rear echelon to pick up Classes I and II supplies.

Each combat team had a collecting section which evacuated the dead from the combat field to a collecting point in the vicinity of the Regimental Collecting point, obviating the necessity of this Organization setting up evacuation plans. Division graves registration collecting stations evacuated from the combat team collecting point to the rear.

b. Status of Supply at end of September.

Due to the slowing up of the tactical situation it was found at the close of the month that all supply and distributing points were able to move within close range of the combat teams. General distances being 15 miles from Division rear to the various supply points. Up until this time, distances had been from 100 miles up to 500 miles. At present combat crews of the Battalion are back at Cherbourg Peninsula drawing 12 motion tanks which are being drawn to replace like items lost due to enemy action.

Signal

Heavy shortages of signal equipment occur during this period. Supply of these items was very slow due, presumably, to the long supply lines. Small issues of the shortages are being received daily at present.

Blankets

This Organization was desperately in need of blankets and shelter halves for a short time, during this period making it necessary for the enlisted men to double up with each other. The situation was alleviated when a shipment of blankets was received. Recently a third blanket has been issued to all personnel of this Command. New gear and working suits, H.B.T. still remain critical shortages.

Class III

Gasoline still is a critical shortage and is issued only on allocation by Corp.

RESTRICTED

Class IV

Availability of vehicular, spare parts is poor, i.e., spark plugs and light tank tracks.

Outfits PX items are not being made weekly, but it is contemplated that Unit PX will be established in the near future.

Class V

Shell, 105mm How, W.P. is not available. Many complaints have been made on the performance of shell, 75mm gun, APC by combat teams. They wish to obtain shell, 75mm, Gun, AP shot, which S-4 has not been able to get at the present time because of unavailability. Battalion S-4 Officers went direct to XII Corps on this in an attempt to have ASP's stock this item. It was found that one Armored Division and two Tank Battalions were satisfied with shell, 75mm Gun, APC and due to the transportation circumstances no special request could be honored at that time.

g. Lessons learned and recommendations.

During the excitement of combat such false information returned to the rear, due to the fact that personnel were reporting incidents they had heard about as being true which resulted in additional supplies and equipment being sent out unnecessarily. This situation was cleared up somewhat by the Battalion S-4, and Ass't S-4 Officers making more trips up to the front. It is recommended that in addition to his other duties the respective Company Maintenance Officers become Company Supply Officers, and except in emergencies all requests for supplies be channelled through the Company Maintenance Officer and Company Supply Sergeant.

12-15 Sup

702
TANK
BN

MOSELLE CROSSING: 702nd Tank Bn.

Tactical employment: Co A attached to 317th CT, Co B to the 318th CT. The original plan: Each tank company to cross with the CT to which it was attached. However since the tanks had to wait for the completion of the heavy ponton bridges, Companies A and B crossed after the foot elements of the two CTs. The Shermans were able to cross after ^{2000, 12th} [redacted]

On arrival at the far shore Co A was parcolled out to the battalions of the 317th, one platoon per battalion. One platoon occupied a position on the reverse slope of FALAISE HILL, ⁹⁰⁸⁻²⁷⁷ two on ⁸¹⁶⁻²⁰³ JENEVIEVE HILL. Co B remained intact in a reserve position covered by an orchard near the river (797-295).

The morning of the ^{13th} [redacted] the enemy counterattacked. Using the FORET DE FAQJ as an assembly area, three major thrusts were directed at the bridgehead. Each thrust featured a team consisting of a platoon of tanks coordinating with a company of infantry. One thrust was directed through ST JENEVIEVE, across the ridge to the town of BEZAUMONT, and westward to the bridge. Another was aimed through ST ⁸¹¹⁻²⁴ JENEVIEVE, ⁷⁹⁸⁻²⁰⁹ downhill to LOISY, then southward to the bridge. The third ⁷⁹³⁻³³⁷ came through ATTON, southward to the bridge. The bulk of our infantry occupying the forward slopes of JENEVIEVE HILL were out off by these thrusts.

Utilizing the dense early morning mist, characteristic of the MOSELLE VALLEY in this region, the enemy pushed through ⁸¹¹⁻³¹⁴ JENEVIEVE and occupied ⁸⁰⁷⁻²⁹⁰ BEZAUMONT. The infantry and TDS at LOISY were pushed back and the en counterattack carried to within 200 yards of Co B's position. There the 11 tanks of Co B apparently unnoticed by the enemy opened up on the en, knocking out two tanks, and turning him back. The tanks fired from set locations.

Co A which had been pushed from the hill, reorganized, and in staggered line formation proceeded up ⁸⁰⁴⁻²⁴⁶ JENEVIEVE HILL, followed by the infantry. A turning movement was effected on BEZAUMONT, resulting in the capture of the town.

On the ⁷⁸⁶⁻³¹³ [redacted] 10:00 Co B with 3rd Bn, 318th CT, attacked MOUSSON HILL. The mission was accomplished by noon. The morning of the 15th the en counterattacked from FORET DE FAQJ, captured ATTON, and LOISY. The men on MOUSSON HILL were out off. After three days they were relieved.

9

14th

MOBILE CROSSING: 702nd Tank Bn. (2)

12 TO THE IS

During the period [redacted] the tanks performed missions of infantry support, outposting, and morale.

In general the terrain in this region is unsatisfactory for tank warfare. Too steep heights and too numerous wooded areas canalizing tank movement along well-defined avenues. From the heights of MT TOULON and MT ST JEAN the en could bring to bear observed artillery fire on eastbound traffic. The roads are frequently bounded on one side by deeply ditched streams, on the other side by rises too steep for tanks. Thus deployment and dispersion were limited.

The weather during this period was satisfactory. The tanks were not roadbound. Since the en had the roads and other natural approaches well zeroed in the tanks moved crosscountry as often as terrain permitted.

EN USING MARK IVs

Few mine casualties. Minefields becoming more deliberate

[redacted]

WITH SAUPED-UP 75s.

Lt Col RALPH TALBOT

(This summary was based on interviews with [redacted] 702nd T

CAPT [redacted] CO, Co A; LT WALTER S. MILLER, CO, Co B; LT JOHN

Tank Bn. [redacted] Co [redacted] CO Co A

CROXTON, CO, 1ST PLAT, Co B; [redacted] Pln, Co A; and interviews with numerous enlisted personnel.

Conducted by [redacted]

TSgt C. J. [redacted]

SEP

TALBOT
702 TK

Lt Col Ralph Talbot, Co, 702 TK Bn

MOBILE BRIDGE 702nd Tank Bn

Previous to the crossing of the [redacted] the 702nd was at OVALONS replacing engines and tracks. After an overnight march the battalion arrived near FLIRY. At that time the 80th Div was fighting in three separate sections. One section from DIEULOUARD to include MARBACHE, MARBACHE to POMPEY exclusive and POMPEY to TOUL. After these areas to the West of the river were clear of enemy preparations were made for the crossing.

It was essential to cross the tanks as soon as possible after the initial assault by the infantry. However the muddy river bottom precluded fording the tanks. The crossing were to take place near DIEULOUARD where the river forms two arms embracing an island. Although it was possible to ford the far arm, it was impossible to determine the fordability of the far arm until the engineers had made a thorough reconnaissance of that arm. A possible ford was located after the infantry had made the assault, but after an attempt to ford an armored dozer at the likely location had failed, it was decided to build a heavy ponton over the far arm as well as over the canal and the near branch.

Originally it had been planned to cross each tk co with the CT to which it was attached. However since the tanks had to wait for the completion of the three heavy ponton bridges, plans were altered and A Co and B Co crossed after the two CTs.

A Co was attached to the 317th CT and B Co to the 318th CT. C Co was operating with the 319th CT via of TOUL and D Co was with the Div Recon Troop.

The crossing took place with the normal difficulties but no losses. Intermittent shelling was in process from the enemy-held heights and once traffic was held up a few minutes.

On arrival at the far side each Co reported to the proper CT and was ordered to take up a position. Co A proceeded to the high ground south of ST JENEVIEVE, Co B just north of LE PONT DE MOUS on the road to LOISI (797-295) (POINT A W/US ON 1:50,000) the 13th.

At 0400 on the morning of [redacted] the en counterattacked and drove the infantry and Co A, 702nd temporarily off the hills. The German infantry and tanks drove the Americans to within 100 yards of the bridge. The CP of the 318th CT was overrun.

The B Co tanks in position opened up. This tank fire from set locations by itself repelled the counterattack. Captured German artillery observers attribute the failure of the counterattack to the direct fire from the American tanks coupled with the fact that a lucky hit by damaging their antenna put the en observers out of contact with their arty. The Germans, according to these PWs, did not bring up reinforcements immediately after the crossing. On the afternoon of the 13th CCA, 4th Armd, passed through the bridgehead.

The other operations of the 702nd consist of small engagements intended to enlarge the bridgehead.

The terrain in this area is bad from the point of view of tankmen. The hills are too steep.

The weather has been satisfactory and the tanks have not been roadbound. The Germans had the roads and other natural approaches well sanded in, and for that reason the tanks moved cross-country as often as terrain permitted.

With a few mine casualties, fields becoming more deliberate. Only seen two 88s, mostly "scraped up" 75s and small stuff.

12

13

End the regiments. CO
and the of his STA
were wounded.
(Note CT 318 CO was
COL HARR, D. Mc Hugh
-Fluckiger)

B

OPP
Tu

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403, C/O POSTMASTER NEW YORK, NEW YORK

RESTRICTED

16 November 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - October 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2b, Section III, Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army, the following comments, observations and recommendations are submitted:

a. **ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING:** No comments over and above those offered in the months of August and September 1944.

b. **PERSONNEL:**

(1) All figures for personnel should be taken from the effective fighting strength of the unit, and not from the assigned strength as basis for requisition.

(2) An initial overage of two (2) tank crews complete per tank company should be permitted and maintained due to the fact that in many instances upon hitting mines, the vehicle is ready for action again after four (4) to six (6) hours, whereas the personnel must be evacuated, resulting in a shortage of crews for the number of vehicles on hand for operation.

c. **EQUIPMENT:** The following changes, additions, and deletions of equipment are recommended from experience gained on Carolina, Tennessee, California, Louisiana Maneuvers, and in the Combat Zone:

(1) The installation of the SCR 300 for Infantry-Tank communication should be expedited in view of the fact that the SCR 536 has proven inadequate and cumbersome for use within the tank.

(2) There is a varied opinion on the suitability or desirability of the use of the .50 caliber machine-gun as a coaxial and anti-aircraft gun. It is felt that for "ranging-in" purposes for firing, the .50 caliber would be better than the .30 caliber, however, with a consideration of ammunition expenditure and available storage space for ammunition, the .30 caliber gun remains the more desirable of the two.

Check 27

RESTRICTED

25


FEB 1 1945

RESTRICTED

- (3) Due to the critical tire shortage, it is highly recommended that combat tire for the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck be issued in lieu of the standard tire now issued.
- (4) All tanks issued as replacements should be complete with the following items:
 - (a) All guns and spare parts.
 - (b) Proper radio and necessary equipment, to include microphones, head-sets, cords, spare antennas, etc.
 - (c) All sights and periscope heads.
 - (d) First echelon tools.
 - (e) Sufficient cleaning and preserving materials for the normal operation, to include of a certainty cleaning-rods and brushes for all weapons organic to the vehicle.

This equipment should be shipped in some manner such as a bill of lading, to accompany the tank, to insure that the minimum essential fighting equipment arrives with the tank upon delivery to the using unit.

- (5) The connector type greasers should be installed ^{on} ~~under~~ each full track vehicle at the factory, as these greasers reduce the ground pressure in difficult terrain, facilitate steering, and generally enables the vehicle to negotiate terrain which was heretofore impassable.
- (6) In order to safeguard Government property, to bolster the morale of the men, and facilitate the transportation of the individual soldier's equipment, the Table of Organization should include two (2) trucks per line Company, in the Administrative, Mess and Supply Section, (One (1) for the Mess and one (1) for the transportation of the personal belongings), it having been determined that if these articles were carried on the tank, they are soon lost with a need for subsequent replacement.


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, 702nd Tank Bn,
Commanding.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403, C/O POSTMASTER NEW YORK, NEW YORK

RESTRICTED

11 December 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - November 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2b, Section III, Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army, the following comments, observations and recommendations are submitted:

a. ORGANIZATION:

- (1) As was mentioned in the same report for the month of September, 1944, it is considered that the Infantry Division must have an organic tank battalion attached. However, combat experience since that time has indicated certain changes over and above those expressed in the reports of September, 1944 and October 1944.
- (2) The present Battalion Headquarters organization lacks:
 - (a) A clerk-typist for the S-2 and S-3 Sections, and two (2) radio operators, MOS 236, (Telegraphic operators, Tec 4 or Tec 5).
 - (b) The S-4 should be assigned to Service Company in lieu of Headquarters as is now the current T/O.
- (3) The car half-track now authorized should be substituted for by an armored car with SCR 506 and 508.
- (4) The assault gun platoon should be deleted from Headquarters Company, a section of two (2) guns, added to the T/O of the medium tank company.
- (5) The light tank company would be better substituted for by either an additional medium tank company, or one (1) company of twelve (12) tank destroyer guns, self-propelled.

b. EQUIPMENT:

- (1) The 75mm gun in the M tank does not have sufficient muzzle velocity to insure penetration of enemy tanks, even at close ranges and should be substituted for by the 76mm or 90 mm gun.
- (2) Each tank company should have, for liaison purposes, an SCR 508 mounted in the 1/4 ton truck.

NOV 30 1944
131 11

RESTRICTED

- (3) Some suitable radio, preferably AM, should be installed in each tank company and tank platoon radio tank, for positive communication with the Infantry. This set to be of necessity small, compact, and with a sure range of one (1) mile. (This organization has not received the AN/VRC 3 series and has no knowledge of the capabilities of this set at this time). The SCR 536 has been tried and found unsatisfactory.
- (4) All personnel of the tank unit should be authorized a combat suit in lieu of only tank personnel.
- (5) The automatic pistol should be the individual arm of all tank crews.
- (6) An additional ten (10) ton wrecker with crew is necessary for proper performance of maintenance under combat conditions.
- (7) Three (3) dozer blades (one (1) per Company) are highly desirable and perpetually needed for use either by the tanks against fortifications, ditches, etc., or to assist combat engineers in preparations of crossings. (The one (1) available to this organization has been extremely useful in all operations to date.)

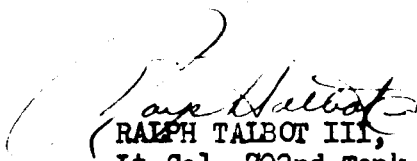
c. MISCELLANEOUS:

- (1) A revised list of the necessary fighting equipment for each combat vehicle as determined by the crews of the vehicle, should be drawn up and after compilation, appropriate T/Es and T/Os should be changed in conformance with the items considered necessary or extremely desirable, it having been found that there is an excessive quantity of miscellaneous articles carried in the tanks and other combat vehicles, which are soon misplaced, lost, or otherwise disposed of because they are superfluous. (Example: flag sets).
- (2) Replacement vehicles must be issued with sufficient machine gun spare parts, and first echelon tools, radios and guns to insure the fighting capabilities of the vehicle.
- (3) A combat tire or puncture-proof tube should be devised for the 1/4 ton truck, 3/4 ton truck, and, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck.
- (4) Tire repair kits to include hot patches, should be part of the on-vehicle equipment for each wheeled vehicle.
- (5) It is considered feasible to construct in the exterior of the canned rations, some type of heat element which

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

when either lighted or exposed to air, would warm up the contents of the ration contained above. This would insure that the soldier under any conditions would receive warm food, and be a considerable factor in cutting down the number of cases of dysentery due to minor intestinal disturbances caused by eating cold food while his system is already in a chilled condition.


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, 702nd Tank Bn,
Commanding.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

OPD
Eto-1

12 January 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - December 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with Memorandum #64, your Headquarters, dated 24 August 1944, Subject: Histories of Organizations and Reports After Action Against Enemy, there are no further comments, observations or recommendations other than those mentioned in After Action Reports of August, September, October and November 1944.

Ralph Talbot
RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, 702nd Tank Bn,
Commanding.

13161

380-6112

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
W.A. [unclear] *Col FA*
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 23 Jan 46

HEADQUARTERS 702D TANK BATTALION
APO 403, US ARMY

1 January 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT - DECEMBER 1944

Section I - Summary of Daily Operations and Actions (S-3)

1 December to 3 December 1944

Location of Battalion Command Post - St. Avelde. The beginning of the month found the three medium tank companies attached to the respective combat teams, as follows: Company "A" to 317th Combat Team, Company "B" to 318th Combat Team, and Company "C" to 319th Combat Team.

Company "D" had one platoon attached to Company "A" and "B" each, while the third platoon was attached to the 80th Division Reconnaissance Troop engaged in protecting the Division right flank (vicinity Henryville). The Division had just completed nearly a month of continuous operation; and this period (1st to 3rd of December) was spent by all companies in conducting maintenance on tanks, radios, and weapons.

3 December to 6 December 1944

Companies "A" and "B" each reinforced by one platoon of light tanks were attached to the 318th Infantry for the purpose of capturing Pfarreberswiller and the high ground to the northeast.

The Combat Team planned to attack with two battalions abreast (1st Battalion on the right, 2nd Battalion on the left, with one tank company subattached to each of the assault battalions).

Company "A" attached to the 2nd Battalion was to wait until the Infantry had established a bridgehead over a small stream running N and S through Pfarreberswiller and then to advance in the battalion zone with the Infantry.

Company "B" attached to the 1st Battalion was to assist it in the capture of Pfarreberswiller, and cross the stream after the bridgehead had been established. Upon crossing the stream the company was to assist the advance of the Battalion to the objective.

The attack started 0730, 4 December 1944, and progressed as planned. Pfarreberswiller and Thedingen were liberated; 135 prisoners captured. No tanks were lost in this operation, but Captain MacDermott, Commanding Company "A", was seriously wounded while on reconnaissance near Thedingen. First Lieutenant Gifford assumed command of the company.

6 December to 17 December 1944

[REDACTED]

Command Post located at Valment. The 80th Division was pinched out of the line on 16 December 1944 by the advance of the 6th Armored Division and reverted to Corps Reserve. Since no action was imminent the tank companies were released from attachment to the Combat Teams and assembled as follows: Companies "A" and "D" at Lachambre, Companies "B" and "C" at Altwiller. The total period from the 6th to the 17th was devoted to much needed maintenance on all vehicles except for approximately eight hours spent by each company in Tank - Infantry training with the Combat Teams.

17 December to 21 December 1944

In compliance with orders to move to the vicinity of Binning, the Battalion crossed the 80th Division Initial Point near St. Avelde at 1340, 17 December 1944, and after an uneventful road march closed into Binning at dusk.

December 19th the 702d Tank Battalion was suddenly ordered to move with the 80th Division to the vicinity of Bascharage, Luxembourg. The Battalion marched in six serials; the lead serial crossing the Initial Point (Sarre-Union) at 1305.

Except for a 45 minute refueling halt in the vicinity of St. Avelde, the unit made a continuous road march to Esch, Luxembourg, arriving there 2358, 19 December 1944.

The Commanding Officer reported at once to the Division Command Post where he received orders to attach one medium tank company to each of the Combat Teams that were to occupy defensive positions north of Luxembourg City. Accordingly the companies were refueled at once, and moved out at first light the morning of the 20th; Company "A" going to Genderange (attached to 317th Infantry), Company "B" to Blachette (attached to 318th Infantry), and Company "C" to Bereldange (attached to 318th Infantry). The Battalion Command Post moved from Esch to Demmeldange after the companies had cleared.

21 December to 31 December 1944

Command Post moved from Demmeldange to Reckange-les-Mersch on 23 December 1944.

Pursuant to Field Message #23, Headquarters III Corps, the 80th Division concentrated NW of Luxembourg December 21st in preparation for an advance to the north before daylight 22 December 1944.

For this operation the three medium tank companies ("A", "B", and "C") were attached to 317th, 318th, and 319th Combat Teams respectively. Company "D" had one platoon attached to each "A", "B", and "C" Companies. The assault gun platoon was attached to Company "C" due to the shortage of tanks in that company.

OPERATIONS OF COMPANY "A", 702d Tank Battalion, attached to 317th Infantry for period 22 December to 31 December 1944

Initially in this operation the 317th Infantry was in Division

[REDACTED]

Reserve; therefore, Company "A" was inactive except for movements toward the front, as the assaulting Combat Teams advanced.

The Combat Team was committed from Neiderfeulen the night of 25 December to take Welscheid. The 2nd Battalion with Company "A" attached started the advance from Neiderfeulen after dark; plans had been made for members of the Infantry to guide the tanks. However, due to extreme darkness the assault platoon became separated from its guides and ran off a cliff thus losing four tanks.

On the 25th, the 317th launched an attack to take Kehmen and Bourscheid from the southwest. The attack was made by the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 317th Infantry, with Company "A" supporting their advance. This force was unable to take Kehmen on the 25th, and the attack was continued the next day against heavy enemy resistance, consisting of fire from automatic and direct fire weapons. The attack was stopped short of Kehmen and our forces took up defensive positions on the high ground south and southwest of the town.

Company "A" occupied defensive positions in this sector until 27 December at which time it withdrew to Neiderfeulen.

OPERATIONS OF COMPANY "B", 702d Tank Battalion, attached to 318th Infantry for period 22 December to 31 December 1944

The 318th Combat Team was ordered to advance in the right of the Division Zone, starting 0600, 22 December 1944. The plan of attack was to advance north up the road, Mersch, Colmar, Berg through Ettelbruck. The Combat Team planned to advance in a column of battalions with Company "B", plus one company of infantry riding on the tanks as advance guard.

For the purpose of protecting the bridge across the Wark River at Colmar one platoon of light tanks plus a company of infantry were moved to Colmar the night of December 21st with orders to hold the bridges until the Combat Team had passed.

The Combat Team moved out from Mersch 0600, 22 December 1944, and advanced without opposition until it reached the vicinity of Ettelbruck. Ettelbruck proved to be very well defended with automatic weapons and anti-tank guns. The nature of the terrain was such that the tanks were severely channelized in their approach to the town and due to this condition the tanks were unable to force an entrance into the town. The lead tank succeeded in reaching the edge of Ettelbruck, but was destroyed by anti-tank gun fire.

The attack on Ettelbruck was continued the 23rd with one Battalion of Infantry attempting to enter the town from the west. One platoon of tanks did succeed in entering the town, but it was ordered to withdraw when it became apparent that it would be impossible to reinforce them. Company "B" then withdrew and set up defensive positions with the Infantry, northwest, west, and south of Ettelbruck.

The company occupied these positions until the end of the month.

[REDACTED]

without change except one platoon which moved to the high ground south of Kehmen on 27 December relieving Company "A" from that position.

OPERATIONS OF COMPANY "C", 702d Tank Battalion, attached to 319th Infantry for period 22 December to 31 December 1944

The plan of the 319th Combat Team was to advance in their zone with the 1st and 2nd Battalions assaulting. The 2nd Battalion in Regimental Reserve was to follow the 3rd Battalion. The 2nd platoon of Company "C" was attached to the 3rd Battalion, and the company less one platoon to the 1st Battalion.

The advance on 22 December moved forward against moderate resistance and the towns of Merzig, Oberfeulen, Feulen, were cleared of the enemy.

During the night of 22 December 1944, the 2nd Battalion of the 319th Infantry with the 3rd platoon of Company "C" attached, advanced from Oberfeulen to Heiderschied, meeting no resistance until they entered the town. The resistance threat in town was speedily overcome and the town occupied by our troops.

At 1100, 23 December 1944, the 2nd platoon which had been helping the 3rd clean out Merzig (Germans had infiltrated during the night) was ordered to Heiderschied to assist the 2nd Battalion of the 319th Infantry in repelling a counterattack on Heiderschied consisting of infantry and armored vehicles. The counterattack was successfully repelled with heavy losses to the enemy.

The 2nd platoon reverted back to the 3rd Battalion, as that unit came through Heiderschied, and assisted that Battalion in its advance to the north.

In the meantime the 1st platoon attached to the 1st Battalion of the 319th had advanced against moderate resistance to Kehmen. The unit was counterattacked by 25 German tanks the morning of 24 December. All four tanks present in the platoon were destroyed or disabled in the ensuing action and the Infantry forced to withdraw slightly.

The company spent the remainder of the month in clearing the towns of Ringel and Tatler, in conjunction with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 319th and in holding these towns against counterattack.

The company alternated platoons every 48 hours during this period, by holding that part of the company not being used in Heiderschied.

Summary of Enemy Equipment Destroyed:

- 4 half-tracks
- 5 tanks
- 2 anti-tank guns
- 1 command car
- 4 artillery pieces
- 12 horse-drawn supply vehicles

Communications:

Use - Normal procedure employed throughout the month with the exception of relay stations used during operations due to spread of zone of action and adverse terrain.

(Note: All supporting documents were previously turned in to the 80th Division Historian.)

Charles D. Sammons
CHARLES D. SAMMONS,
Major, 702d Tank Bn,
S-3.

702d Tank Battalion,
APO 403, c/o Postmaster,
New York, New York.

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to and including 31 December 1944 for the period 1 December 1944 thru 31 December 1944).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
1 Dec	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
4 Dec	0	0	2	0	0	2	5
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
8 Dec	0	0	1	0	0	1	6
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
9 Dec	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
22 Dec	0	0	4	0	0	4	14
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
23 Dec	1	0	4	0	1	6	4
24 Dec	3	0	14	0	0	17	0
25 Dec	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
26 Dec	1	0	1	0	2	4	0
27 Dec	0	1	2	0	0	3	0
28 Dec	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
29 Dec	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PW's</u>
4 Dec	135
*****	*****
<hr/>	
TOTAL	135

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
2 Dec	13
*****	***

TABLE NUMBER 3 CONT'D.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
6 Dec	5
*****	***
10 Dec	5
*****	***
13 Dec	7
*****	***
16 Dec	7
*****	***
23 Dec	4
*****	***
TOTAL	41

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.

No.

- 2 Bronze Star Medal
- 1 Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
- 26 Purple Heart Award
- 3 (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
- 1 (2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

GRAVES REGISTRATION: None

BATTLEFIELD APPOINTMENTS: None

SPECIAL SERVICE: Motion pictures were drawn as available through the 80th Division Special Service Office as the tactical situation permitted. No council books were received during the month and only a limited distribution of magazines. An adequate distribution of games was received through the 80th Division.

MAIL: Mail service was unsatisfactory, especially when the unit moved. Unnecessary delays are occasioned by similarity in unit designations. It is not unusual for half of the mail delivered to this battalion to be intended for the 702d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

William B. Jacobs
 WILLIAM B. JACOBS,
 Captain, 702d Tk Bn,
 S-1.

Auth: CG, 80th Div
Init:
Date: 1 Jan 45

HEADQUARTERS 702D TANK BATTALION
APO 403, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

AFTER ACTION REPORT - DECEMBER 1944

Section II - Intelligence Operations (S-2)

(1) At the beginning of the month, this unit was faced by the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division. Although badly mauled in the attack on Metz, this division had been rejuvenated by an influx of replacements toward the end of November and was capable of an effective defense. Their line was penetrated on the 4th but no breakthrough was accomplished. Until the 23rd the 702d Tank Battalion participated in no other engagements against the enemy.

In an assault against the south flank of the German counter offensive, commencing on December 23rd, this battalion met elements of the enemy's 352nd and 79th Volks Grenadier Divisions. The first was met on the road and badly mauled by our attack. Due to the resulting gap, the 79th Division was rushed to this sector and thrown into the line. Both divisions were of the Volks Grenadier class, and showed aggressiveness, high morale, and great strength. Daily counterattacks were received in the early stages of the battle. But by the end of the month, cold weather, lack of hot food, and heavy losses had slowed these units down considerably. For the first time since the initial crossing of the Moselle River enemy tanks were met in great strength. They belonged to the 519th Assault Gun Battalion of the Fuehrer Brigade. Our battalion had knocked out three (3) enemy tanks by the end of the month. Artillery and nebelwerfer fire was very strong during the Luxembourg battles, and a German Artillery Corps was identified in the area. By the end of the month the 80th Infantry Division was in a stabilized position facing the whole German 79th Division, on a line running from Ringel through Kehmen to Scheidel, and the 916th Volks Grenadier Regiment of the 352nd Division from Scheidel to Ettelbruck.

(2) Map sheets covering the area of operations: GSGS 4416, 1/100,000 - Sheets U-1, V-1 (included). T-1 (not available).

For the Commanding Officer:

Carl A. Nordstrom
CARL A. NORDSTROM,
Captain, 702d Tk Bn,
S - 2.

1. During the period from the beginning of December to the 15th essential maintenance and resupplying of the Battalion was performed, and the necessary personnel reinforcements were received and processed. The Battalion maintenance platoon completed the installation of complete sets of floating type grousers, which were later to prove exceedingly valuable. An installation team from the 79th Signal Repair Company remained with the Battalion for two days with the mission of instructing the respective Organization Signal Crews the proper method of installing the new Infantry-Tank communication system on each tank. These items consisted of the following:

1	ea.	Box, BC 606	1	ea.	Handset, HS-13
23	ft.	Cord, CD	1	ea.	Cal..30 ammo box
1	ea.	Plug, PL 68			

This installation afforded a method of communication between the Infantryman and the Tank Commander. Previously, field telephones had been used, but with poor results in actual combat. Ample equipment to set up all medium tanks in the Organization and approximately 75% of the tanks were so wired prior to the end of the maintenance period.

2. For a report on critical shortages existing at the end of the month see inclosures 1, 2, & 3.

Class I Supplied: Rations consumed for the month of December were as follows:

73%	Type "B"
2%	" "C"
25%	Type 10-in

The planned menus were entirely satisfactory and the Command was well fed with one or two exceptions where the meat factor was unusually low. During the early period of the month, the rations were supplemented by an unlimited issue of fresh potatoes obtained from a captured stock pile estimated to have contained some three hundred tons of fresh potatoes.

The early part of the month also saw excessive water trouble, the Organization Medical Administrative Officer having made a number of tests for chlorination discovered that there was insufficient chlorination in the water. A check with the Division Surgeon revealed that other units had been having the same difficulty and it was decided that the water in the sector was of a peculiar type which would not hold chlorination. The following steps were taken to alleviate the situation.

- Water was not allowed to remain in the cans on the water truck overnight.
- Fresh water was obtained each morning.
- Each kitchen was issued 100 calcium hypochlorate ampules and a test kit.

Coal: Coal for heating billets and office space was readily obtainable from army stock piles. Privately owned stocks consumed by members of this Command were replenished.

Class II:Supplies: For existing shortages at end of month see Enclosures 1,2 & 3. Additional overshoes were received,however, size 12 remained critical. This shortage left approximately 10% of the Command without overshoes. In order to minimize the number of trench foot casualties in the Organization, higher Headquarters ordered all Units to make one pair of clean socks available to each man daily. From the 1st through the 3rd week of the month approximately 40% of this Command changed socks daily. Due to the tactical situation this percentage dropped to 20% for the fifth week. A comparison of this figure with Divisional Units revealed that this Command was doing much better in this connection. Trench foot casualties were neglectable.

It was recommended by Corps Armored advisors that our mess kit shortages could be alleviated by a visit to Army reclamation points. Investigation revealed that reclamation points had direct orders from Army to return all servicable items to the depot for issue. Our shortage of mess kits was subsequently obtained through normal supply channels.

Class III Supplies: no particular difficulty was encountered in this class of supply until this Organization made the long march from Rahling, France to Esch, Luxembourg. Due to the urgency of the situation in the North it was necessary for the march to be almost continuous with refueling periods as short as possible. Therefore two trucks with one ton trailers from the Battalion trains Platoon were attached to each of the six Companies. However Battalion control of these trucks was difficult and future marches of this type will be made leaving at least 50% of the class III vehicles under battalion control in the Service Company. Levels of necessary oils and grease were maintained by verbal request on the respective supply points.

Class IV Supplies: Post exchange items were issued each Sunday of the month with the exception of the week of the extended move at which time these items were two days late. The following items were issued:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ALLOWANCE PER 100 MEN</u>
Cigarettes	ea.	100
Candy bars	ea.	500
Matches	box	400
Razor blades	ea.	50
Soap	bar	18
Tooth Paste	tube	9
Tooth Brushes	ea.	8
Smoking tobacco	plug	20
Chewing tobacco	plug	2
Shaving cream	tube	16
Gum	ea.	100

Class V Supplies: All calibers of M.P. ammunition remained in short supply, however this did not hamper operations. Generally, the M.P.'s were so far to the rear necessitating vehicles for replenishing leaving early in the morning. During the early operations against the breakthrough in the Ardennes sector ammunition was issued from innumerable railheads. Although it was frequently necessary for vehicles to go to several railheads before obtaining full requirements. Ammunition issues at the dumps was handled well.

Recommendations: 1. One company of this Organization relieved its personnel of all clothing excepting that which each individual wore. The remainder was carried in company supply and issued to the men on an exchange basis, the soiled laundry being turned into the nearest Quartermaster Laundry in bulk for washing. With this system ordinary losses, combat losses and negligence was reduced to a minimum and the quantity of salvage was increased. A comparison of replacement clothing requisitions with comparable companies proved this method more highly economical and this system will be incorporated in the other companies.

2. The gratuitous issue of PX items is very fine, however the razor blades issued therein do not fit the gratuitous issue of razor blades. It is recommended that these be standardized.

3. Replacement of individual tools to sets and parts for unit assemblies are too difficult to obtain. It is much easier to obtain the complete unit assembly or set. If greater emphasis is placed on filling requisitions for small items in rear echelons it is believed that requisitions for major items will decrease.

HEADQUARTERS, 702nd TANK BATTALION
 Office of the Supply Officer
 APO #403, U. S. Army

28 December 1944

SUBJECT: Critical Quartermaster Items.

TO : Office of the Division Quartermaster, 80th Infantry Division

1. The following is a shortage list of critical items existing in this Battalion and have been on requisition for over two weeks.

Gloves, wool, OD (all sizes)		Raincoat Size: Large	ea. 75
Jackets, field Size: 34-R	ea. 20	Shoes, Service Size: EE widths	
36-R	ea. 46	Non-tariff	
38-R	ea. 52	11 1/2 AAA	12 B
		12 1/2 B	12 1/2 D
Overshoes, arctic Size: 12	pr. 70	12 1/2 E	
(will accept size 13)			

INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

Cup, canteen

T/E ITEMS

Pots, cook, mountain type for outfit cooking		Brushes, urinal type
Kits, barber	ea. 4	Selector, qualification card
Outfit, cooking, one-burner		Tube, flexible nozzle w/truncated funnel
Typewriter, portable	ea. 1	

SIDNEY COHEN
 Capt, 702nd Tk Bn
 Supply Officer

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS, 702nd TANK BATTALION
Office of the Supply Officer
APO #403, U. S. Army

28 December 1944

SUBJECT: Critical Shortages

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 80th Infantry Division
Attention: Ordnance Officer

1. The following items of Ordnance equipment are selected critical shortages existing in this Organization and represent only a portion of the amount pending on Ordnance Requisitions.

B 208591	Cable, towing, S-1-1/8" diam. x20'	12
D 78272	Mounts, MG, Cal. .30 AA	12
H 424	Hose, gas, acetylene, extra flex w/fitting. 1/4 inch, length 25 ft.	1
	Paulin, 12' x 12'	10
	Staff, Rammer, 75mm	9
	Brush, 75mm	9
	Sledge, dbie face, 10 lbs	8
	Crowbar, Pinch, 5 ft.	9
	Periscope, M4, w/telescope, M17 for <u>75mm Gun</u>	1
	First echelon tools (wheeled vehicles)	
	First echelon tools (Tanks)	12
	Mechanism, percussion assy, 75mm	2
	" " " 105mm	2
	Ford Engine Parts	
	Fixture, Track connecting and link pulling	25
18-H-940	Hydrometer	
18-H-1240	Hydrometer	

Tubes, 600x16	12
" 750x20	22
Tires, 750x20	13
Tires, 600x16	15
Truck, 2-1/2 Ton L.W.B.	1
Trailer, 1 ton cargo	2
Battery, 12 volt	4
" 6 volt	3
Watches, wrist (all jewels)	
Brushes, Fender	100
Vehicle, Tank Recovery, light, w/o armorment	1
Spare Parts for Cal..30 MG, M1919A4	
Patches, hot (all sizes)	
Radiator, 1/4 ton	1
Brake shoe	3
Waste, cotton or wool	

2. Many of the trucks being received are minus the majority of their accessories. In most cases vehicles haven't sufficient tools to change a tire or make other first echelon repairs. Vehicles also lack spare tires and tarpaulin assemblies.

SIDNEY COHEN
 Capt, 702nd Tk Bn
 Supply Officer

HEADQUARTERS, 702nd TANK BATTALION
Office of the Supply Officer
APO #403, U.S. Army

28 December 1944

SUBJECT: Critical Shortages of Signal Equipment

TO : Signal Officer, 80th Infantry Division

1. The following items of signal equipment are selected critical shortages existing in this Organization.

Alignment equipment, ME-73	1
Axle, RL-125	1
Axle, RL-27	
AN/VRC - 3	28
Cover, BG-96	73
Dynamotors, DM-37	27
" DM-35	3
Lantern, electric, portable hand	10
Test Unit, I-176	5
Maintenance equipment, ME-13	2
Voltmeter, I-166	4

2. The above quantities represent only a portion of the amount which has been requisitioned through the Division Signal Supply Officer, but due to unavailability, were not received.

SIDNEY COHEN
Capt, 702nd Tank Bn
Supply Officer

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403, C/O POSTMASTER NEW YORK, NEW YORK

*o/s
etc - 1*

RESTRICTED

19 February 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - January 1945.

Rec'd 44 Jan 45

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with Memorandum #64, dated 24 August 1944, and Un-numbered Memorandum, dated 30 December, 1944, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army, the following remarks, comments and recommendations are submitted:

- a. There are no further remarks reference organization, training or equipment, other than has been made in previous reports.
- b. The following combat lessons have been learned by this Battalion:

(1) SAVING OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: During the middle and latter part of November 1944, this Battalion accumulated a sizeable quantity of discarded clothing from the battlefield in the wake of the combat troops. The unserviceable items were turned in through normal channels for salvage while the serviceable pieces were laundered with the intent of ultimately being turned in as excess. At this time the members of the Battalion were in dire need of clean clothing, however, the tactical situation was such that soiled laundry could not readily be collected from all members. Therefore, the existing clean items of clothing were distributed in exchange for like items soiled, which in turn were turned in for laundering. This suggested the possibility of eliminating the existant difficulties of clothing supply.

At that time each man had a duffle bag containing his extra clothing. Sufficient organic transportation was not available in either Company or Battalion Trains to carry these duffle bags, therefore, the extra clothing was carried on the individuals' combat vehicles. If the vehicle encountered enemy fire some or all of this clothing was destroyed; if it became necessary for the crew to abandon the vehicle all of the clothing was lost, or if the vehicle was subsequently recaptured the clothing was totally or partially pilfered by the enemy, civilians or friendly troops.

*15/10/1
25*

RESTRICTED

If any or all of this clothing became wet or muddy there was a tendency to throw these items away.

There was also a tendency to throw away items which became bulky or cumbersome.

In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances this Battalion relieved all men of their extra clothing and carried it as bulk in the Company Trains issuing out only in exchange for like items which were soiled. This change was highly encouraged and carefully watched by the Battalion Supply Officer. Combat loss replacement requisitions of this Battalion during a six weeks trial period were approximately twenty-five percent of what they were formerly and amazingly low in comparison with requisitions from like Battalions or Units of comparable size. As a result, this system was inaugurated in the line companies with the following results:

(a) Combat replacement requisitions have been approximately twenty-five percent of former totals effecting a corresponding economy.

(b) When tank crews find it necessary to abandon their vehicle the only individual losses are toilet articles since all clothing in their possession is being worn.

(c) The lapse of time required to get replacement of salvage is practically nil insofar as the individual soldier is concerned since immediate replacement is available through the clean clothing supply.

The overall results of this system have proved highly satisfactory for all concerned and have effected a great savings in replacement costs at the same time keeping the members of this Command well clothed and cleaner.

(2) Use of rocket launcher T-34 mounted on Medium Tank M-4 (w/75mm gun).

(a) PW reports taken from prisoners captured by the three (3) Combat Teams of the 80th Infantry Division report that this weapon is far more effective than the German or Russian counterpart, due to its fragmentation characteristics and consequent ability to penetrate light overhead cover. The tremendous fire power concentrated in such a short period of time (20-30 seconds) has a definite morale lowering ability known as "surrender persuasion".

RESTRICTED

(b) All firing of this weapon, due to resupply difficulties, is done through the direct support F.A. Battalion fire direction center. For this the guns are moved as far forward as possible (for an armored vehicle), prearranged areas, and time schedules are set up in F.A. fire plan. The guns are registered by single shot and fired on order of F.D.C.

(c) Though not considered desirable on M-4 tanks, the value of the rocket and it's fire power are fully realized by all using and supported personnel.


(d) Minor mechanic failures become easily serviceable as the using crew becomes better acquainted with the weapon.

(e) The loss of the use of the tank as a fighting vehicle due to difficulty experienced in jettisoning the rockets, definitely hinders the tank company commander. This Battalion has one platoon per medium tank company so equipped.

(3) This Battalion was issued in February one "Weasel". This vehicle is highly regarded by all who have used it. It has been used on several occasions, to take hot food and maintenance parts to men and vehicles that otherwise would have entailed laborious hand-carry. If the vehicle were a bit more sturdy, the issue of one such vehicle per Company would be desirable.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. That rocket launchers be mounted on the M5A1 light tank in lieu of the M-4 medium tank.


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, 702d Tank Bn,
Commanding.

RESTRICTED

Auth: CG, 80th Inf Div
Init:
Date: 1 Feb 45

HEADQUARTERS 702D TANK BATTALION
APO 403, US ARMY

RESTRICTED

1 February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT - JANUARY 1945

Section I. Summary of Daily Operations and Actions. (S-3)

As the month opened the tank battalion was fulfilling its normal attachments. The companies were disposed as follows: Company "A", attached to the 317th Infantry Regiment, in Niederfeulen; Company "B", with the 318th Infantry Regiment, had one platoon in Schieren, and the remainder of the Company in Grentzigen; Company "C", attached to the 319th Infantry Regiment, was divided, with one platoon occupying defensive positions in the vicinity of Ringel, and two platoons at Heiderscheid. Company "D" was in Division Reserve at Bissen.

The Battalion Command Post was established with the Division Command Post at Reckange-les-Mersch, where it remained until 6 January 1945, at which time it moved to Merzig.

Company "A", 6 to 22 January 1945:

On 6 January 1945 Company "A" moved from Niederfeulen to an assembly area south of Heiderscheid. This move was made in conjunction with a move of the 317th Infantry, placing that unit in a defensive position north of Heiderscheid.

Except for a short period (one day) spent firing indirect fire missions by the 1st platoon, the company remained inactive in the above area until the 18th of January.

On the 18th one platoon of the company was to make a diversionary attack on the town of Kehmen to draw enemy attention from the attacks of the 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments. The platoon moved into a firing position on the high ground west of the town and after firing on the town for one half-hour withdrew to the assembly area. The platoon received no enemy fire while on this mission.

Late in the afternoon of January 20th one platoon of Company "A" assisted by a company of the 317th Infantry moved into the town of Kehmen and succeeded in clearing the town. Resistance in the town proved to be very light and 25 PW's were captured without any losses to our troops.

Company "B", 7 to 23 January 1945:

Company "B" attached to the 318th Infantry remained inactive until the 19th of the month at which time two platoons moved into attack positions south of Burden and the third platoon from Niederfeulen to Ettelbruck.

The plan of attack was to push from the south with the 2nd Battalion of the 318th Infantry and capture the town of Burden. The attack progressed as planned, jumping off at 1740, January 20th, and capturing the town at 1950.

RESTRICTED

26

RESTRICTED

The attack was continued the next morning with Bourscheid the objective. The attacking Infantry encountered extremely heavy sniper fire from the town; therefore, two platoons of Company "B" moved through them and attacked the town. The tanks succeeded in entering the town, destroying two enemy tanks and one anti-tank gun in the resulting action. The Infantry moved into town after the tanks and had occupied the town by noon.

After the capture of Bourscheid the 318th Infantry was ordered into Division Reserve to assemble in the vicinity of Niederfeulen. In compliance with this order, Company "B" assembled in Niederfeulen on the 22nd, and moved from there to Buderscheid on January 23rd.

Company "C", 6 to 26 January 1945:

The 319th Combat Team planned to attack across the Sure River early on the 6th of January to seize Goesdorf and Dahl. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were to cross the River under cover of darkness, and proceed north along a route west of the towns, until opposite their objectives and then move on the towns from the west. The tanks were to cross after the bridge had been completed and move north on the road Goesdorf, Dahl, and assist the Infantry in clearing the towns, if they were needed.

Company "C" crossed the river at 0730, 6 January, and proceeded directly to Dahl, where it was attached to the 3rd Battalion of 319th Infantry. The company occupied a defensive position in the vicinity of Dahl and assisted the 3rd Battalion in repelling several enemy counterattacks.

On January 11th, the 3rd platoon of Company "C" attacked Bockholtz with the 2nd Battalion of 319th Infantry, and occupied the town, meeting only minor resistance.

The 3rd platoon of Company "C", plus the Assault Gun Section supported the attack of the 3rd Battalion against Nocher on the 18th of January.

The tanks were to wait in Dahl until the Battalion reached a position near Nocher, and then advance due north to support the Infantry's entrance into Nocher.

The Infantry was able to approach within a short distance of the town under cover of darkness, but was met by heavy sniper and mortar fire upon attempting to enter the town. The tanks immediately moved forward to assist, and supported the Infantry's advance into the town. Two tanks were disabled by mines while approaching Nocher.

The company moved with the 319th Infantry to Fels on 26 January.

Company "D", 6 to 22 January 1945:

Company "D", with the Mortar Platoon attached, was attached to 319th Infantry, subattached to 2nd Battalion for the purpose of supporting the attack of the 319th Infantry, previously mentioned.

The company crossed the River Sure behind Company "C" and joined the 2nd Battalion in Goesdorf. The unit occupied a defensive position in Goesdorf until 14 January and assisted the Infantry in repelling numerous counterattacks during that period. One tank was lost during this operation.

The company was detached from the 319th Infantry on 14 January, and assembled at Vichten in Division Reserve.

The 3rd platoon was attached to 80th Reconnaissance Troop on 17 January, with the mission of protecting the west flank of the

29

319th Infantry. However the platoon did not engage in any action while on this mission.

Task Force Talbot, 23 to 31 January 1945:

The Task Force was formed by verbal order of the Commanding General, with the mission of reconnoitering in the zone east of Wiltz through Wilwerwiltz and Enscherange to Hosingen, to prevent surprise by advancing infantry columns and establish contact with the 6th Cavalry on the left flank.

Composition of Task Force:

- Tactical Headquarters - 702d Tank Battalion
- Company "D" - " " "
- Mortar Platoon - " " "
- Assault Gun Platoon - " " "
- Reconnaissance Platoon - " " "
- 80th Recon Troop - 80th Infantry Division
- 1 platoon, Company "A", 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion
- 1 platoon, Company "C", 305th Combat Engineer Battalion

The Task Force Forward Command Post was established at Eschweiler on 24 January.

Advancing in two columns from Wiltz on the morning of the 24th of January, the reconnaissance elements of the Task Force established contact with the enemy along the line of the Clerf River, between the towns of Drauffel and Lellingen. The mission of crossing the river was turned over to the 317th Infantry the night of the 24th of January, and the Task Force continued patrolling to the north to establish contact with the 6th Cavalry. Two OP's were established on the high ground west of Wilwerwiltz to gather information.

On the 26th Of January, Hq TFT moved to Wilwerwiltz, and the Task Force was attached to Task Force Summers. Pursuant to orders from that Headquarters, one platoon of 80th Reconnaissance Troop, plus one platoon of tanks moved to the north flank of the Task Force with the mission of maintaining contact between that flank and the south flank of the 26th Infantry Division, while the remainder of the combat elements moved to Lellingen to protect the south flank of TF Summers.

Company "A", 25 to 28 January 1945:

Company "A" advancing in the zone of the 317th Infantry Regiment from Wiltz was temporarily held up at the Clerf River until a bridge suitable for tanks was completed.

Lieutenants Gifford and Shaulis were wounded while on a road reconnaissance to the proposed bridge site, and Lieutenant Marsh assumed command of the company. The tanks crossed the river on the 26th of January and assisted in the attacks on Pintsche and Sisbanaler.

On the afternoon of the 26th, the 317th Infantry plus attachments was incorporated in Task Force Summers, with the mission of capturing Hosingen.

The attack on Hosingen jumped off at 1300, 27 January 1945. 3rd Battalion, 317th Infantry with 2nd platoon of Company "A", advanced and captured Niedhausen. The 2nd Battalion, 317th Infantry, with 3rd platoon of Company "A" attached, captured Bockholtz-les-Hosingen at 0300, at which time the 1st Battalion, 318th Infantry, with one platoon of Company "B" tanks and one platoon of Company "D" tanks advanced through them and continued the attack on Hosingen.

The high ground around Hosingen was in our hands by noon of the 27th of January. Two light tanks were destroyed in the vicinity of Hosingen.

At months end the battalion was assembled for maintenance and reorganization as follows:

- Headquarters and Service Companies - Godbrange
- Company "A" and Company "D" - Reuland
- Company "C" and Company "B" - Bourglinster
- Battalion Headquarters - Altlinster

Charles D. Sammons
CHARLES D. SAMMONS,
Major, 702d Tk Bn,
S-3.

~~SECRET~~

Auth: CG, 80th Inf Div
Init: _____
Date: 1 Feb 45

HEADQUARTERS 702D TANK BATTALION
APO 403, US ARMY

1 February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT - JANUARY 1945

Section II. Intelligence Operations. (S-2)

1. a. Enemy Situation - During the month of January 1945 the units in contact were 79th VG Div, 226th VG Regt, located at Kehmen (P7840), Schiedel (P7845) and vicinity of Diekirch (P8742). The 208th VG Regt located at Kehmen and vicinity (P7840) and the 212th VG Regt located vicinity of Ringel (P7648). Elements of the 9th VG Div were contacted at Goesdorf (P722466). 352d VG Div vicinity of Burden and Erpeldange. 276th VG Div at vicinity (P709510). 519th GHQ Hv AT Bn vicinity of Dahl. Fuehrer Brigade vicinity Dahl. 406th Volks Arty Corps vicinity Roermerberg.

b. Enemy Tactics - Enemy espionage and sabotage teams infiltrated U.S. lines in G.I. uniform. This method caused our troops to be acutely sensitive to military security, making up for laxity heretofore, very evident. The first week of the period marked an overall defensive attitude, in the salient, and marked the beginning of withdrawal of armor from the salient. The enemy continued to shuttle Panzers from the First Army front to the Third Army front. The terrain and weather were most suitable for enemy defensive action; the hills, many rivers and creeks aided enemy holding action, plus his extensive use of Teller-mines, Schu-mines, S-mines, and plastic mines. All of the latter were easily hidden under deepening snows of the period. His uses of road blocks were many, and together with icy roads caused delaying action in his favor. Enemy patrolling was very active. For camouflage, vehicles were painted white and Infantry used snow capes to blend with the snow. Use of tanks by enemy was restricted. He used great quantities of Artillery and Mortar and Nebelwerfer fire at all opportunities to restrict our movements.

c. Enemy Morale - The enemy fought with vigor at beginning of period but as his salient was being pushed back, more and more PW's came in as deserters. Morale became lower and more of enemy deserted to our side. Lack of food and ammunition and conveyance became more noticeable as our Air Force struck at the retreating enemy.

2. Map sheets covering the area of operations during the period: Maps, 1/50,000, sheets No. 137-Arlon, No. 122-Wiltz, and No. 107-Houffalize.

Carl A. Nordstrom
CARL A. NORDSTROM,
Capt, 702d Tk Bn,
S-2.

~~SECRET~~

122

RESTRICTED

SECTION III, Page No. 10

1. During the early part of the month the Battalion was deployed in defensive positions in the northern part of Luxembourg. The middle of the month saw the medium tank companies attached to the infantry regiments forming combat teams and attacking and seizing towns up to and north of the Sauer River in northern Luxembourg, and remained on the line until the 28th of the month at which time the Battalion was withdrawn to four towns close to one another with the intent of performing necessary maintenance.

2. For a report on critical shortages existing at the end of the month see inclosures 1, 2 and 3 attached.

Class I:

a. Rations consumed for the month of December were as follows:

66%	Type	"B"
0%	Type	"C"
26%	Type	"10-in-1"
2%	Type	"K"

The planned menus were not as satisfactory as the month previous. Indications pointed to an excessive quantity of stews, hash and pork sausage. There were also several instances of the same foods being issued two days in a row. This might have been caused by an overestimate of the number of rations required by the issuing depot.

Water consumed during the month was not excessive, in all probability due to the cold weather. No difficulty was encountered with reference to chlorination. However the excessively cold weather caused freezing of the water in cans and some of the Companies received cans of ice. The situation was remedied by emptying all cans on the water truck at night, picking up fresh water early in the morning which also decreased the length of time the water remained stagnant. In addition all Companies were instructed to place filled water cans containing ice around the kitchen field ranges.

Coal was exceptionally critical during the month and while most of the Organization was consuming existing wood piles while in combat the shortage was felt. The small quantity of coal arriving at Class III Supply Points was issued to Units having high priorities such as hospital installations. The coal situation was alleviated by the use of a stockpile captured at Wiltz, Luxembourg. The fuel problem was also solved by exploitation of local forests, the proper steps being taken by this Organization to re-imburse the Luxembourg Government via reverse Lend Lease. Another method of obtaining wood was through the use of privately owned stock piles and then re-imbursing the civilian family by indicating that "Heat was supplied" on the forms submitted for all buildings occupied as billets or office space.

RESTRICTED

33

RESTRICTED**Class II.**

For existing shortages at end of month see inclosures 1, 2 and 3. Additional overshoes, size 13 were received in lieu of sizes 12 thereby equipping the entire Command with them. Clean socks were made available to all on the exchange basis, however, due to the tactical situation the turnover averaged 30%. During the month sleeping bags were made available to all personnel, the issue being made on allocation to the Division and subsequently by Division to this Organization. Our first allocation gave us two hundred fifty three. Enlisted men were permitted to retain two blankets with the sleeping bag, those not having the bag had four wool blankets. First reports on the practicability of these bags varied with about fifty percent in favor of them and the rest not in favor or undecided. Subsequently, when the remaining quantity was made available to the Organization, enough were requisitioned to equip 90% of the Command, leaving the others content to "Sweat out" the winter with four blankets.

The Division received an allocation of shoepacs during the month the bulk of which were issued to combat engineers, rifle companies, and artillery units, however, this Organization received some in lieu of some of the shortages of EE width shoes.

The excessive snowfalls at the beginning of the month turned the country side stark white. As a precaution against detection by the enemy, our vehicles were camouflaged by the use of a white liquid which could be easily removed with warm water. Further camouflage precautions were taken by the issue of white suits to tank commanders and reconnaissance personnel.

Replacement tanks received during the month included some with 76mm guns bringing the total of this type in the Organization to seven, thus presenting a class V problem.

In order to alleviate slipping and skidding of our tanks on steep inclines and round topped roads the tracks were modified as follows: Each fifth block was studded to form teeth which would grip into the ice.

Another modification accomplished at the beginning of the month was the mounting of mesn wire on the front and sides of the tanks. This was performed in order to insert branches of trees so as to break true outline of the tank. Up until the end of the month these had not been used and so no comment can be made on their effectiveness.

Class III.

Supplies: The class III SP was fairly close (15 to 20 miles) to the Battalion trains area, therefore no particular problems were encountered. The fourteen fuel and lubricant vehicles in the section are ample. Levels of necessary oils and grease were obtained from supply points upon verbal requests.

RESTRICTED

R-11

34

SECTION III, Page No. 12

Class IV: Post Exchange items were issued each Sunday of the month based on the following allowances:

ITEM	UNIT	ALLOWANCE PER 100 MEN
------	------	-----------------------

(See attached shipping ticket)

Shortages of razors in the Battalion were alleviated by requisition on the CDQM, 30th Infantry Division.

Sand: Due to the excessively cold weather many of the roads were dangerous for traffic and since engineer units were kept busy sanding the forward element arteries and MSR, it was necessary to use organic vehicles and personnel to sand the roads in the immediate vicinity of the Battalion trains.

Class V: WP Ammunition still remained critical and in particular WP 76mm presented a problem. As the attack progressed the distance to the ASP's increased and at the end of the month it was felt that they were too far back.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. The carrying of all extra clothing in Company Supply, mentioned in last month's Journal has been incorporated in all front line Companies resulting in an enormous reduction in the quantities of requisitions being submitted for clothing by the Companies. The only problem confronting these Companies was the laundry problem. It was discovered that the laundry point assigned this Unit was handling too much work and soiled laundry was retained by them for as long as sixteen days. This problem was solved by using laundry units attached to evacuation hospitals who did not have work enough to keep them busy.

2. Sufficient lighting equipment is not authorized the Companies in pertinent T/O&E's. It is recommended that a minimum of two gasoline lanterns be authorized each line company and four for each of Headquarters and Service Companies and one for Medical Detachment.

3. The following items, as authorized by current T/O&E's are not being used and are superfluous:

Army Air Forces:

Inter-aircraft control lamps.

Chemical Warfare Service:

Mask, gas, optical
Respirator, dust, M-2

Engineer:

Camouflage equipment, Set No. 3
Marker, luminous, radio-active, Type I
Demolition Equipment Set No. 5, Individual
Templet, Map, M-2

RESTRICTED

Ordinance:

Finder, Range, M9A1
Launcher, rocket, AT, M9
mount, Range Finder, M58
Launcher, Grenade, Carbine
*Tank, Light, w/armorment

**Medical:

Packet, First Aid

Quartermaster:

Suspenders, belt, M1736

Signal:

Parasimle Equipment, RC-48 (Tape)
Flag Set, M-238 (Tank)
Panel Set, AP-30-C
AP-30-D
Radio Sets, SCR 509

* Recommend Medium Tanks be substituted or Light Tanks with weapons larger than 37mm Gun.

** Recommend paratrooper type be substituted since most tankers have discarded pistol belt and now carry 1st aid packet in their pocket.

Sidney Cohen

SIDNEY COHEN,
Capt, 702d Tk Bn,
S-4.

RESTRICTED

36

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS, 702nd TANK BATTALION
Office of the Supply Officer
APO #403, U. S. Army

25 January 1945

SUBJECT: Critical Shortages

TO : Ordnance Officer, 80th Infantry Division

1. The following items of Ordnance equipment are selected critical shortages existing in this Organization and represent only a portion of the amount pending on Ordnance Requisition.

n 424	hose, gas, acetylene, extra flex w/fitting, 1/4 inch, length 25 ft.	1
	Ford Engine parts	
	Fixture, track connecting and link pulling	25
18-h-940	hydrometer, Anti-Freeze	
18-h-1240	" Storage Battery Testing	
	Three Irons	
	Tubes, 600 x 10	8
	Tires, 600 x 16	9
	Tires, 1100 x 20	4
	Tubes, 1100 x 20	2
	Battery, 12 volt	4
	Watches, wrist (all jewels) (Received 3 watches, pocket in lieu of watches, wrist	24
	Brushes, tender	100
	Vehicle, Tank Recovery, light, w/o armorment	1
	Spac parts for Cal..30 MG, M1919A4	
	Patches, hot (all sizes)	
	Accessories for 1/4 ton and 2 1/2 ton truck	

37

RESTRICTED

GPW	Pipe, Ruffier	3
	Tool Set, General Mechanics	4
	Tool Set, Armorers	1
	Tool Set, Arm'd force, Spec. Company	1
	Tool Set, Artillery Mechanics	1
	Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	1
	<u>Anti Freeze (Prestone)</u>	gal. 100

2. Anti-Freeze in the above quantity is greatly needed by this Organization, request that immediate steps be taken to obtain it.

SIDNEY COHEN
Capt, '02nd Tk Bn
Supply Officer

38



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS, 702nd TANK BATTALION
Office of the Supply Officer
APO #403, U. S. Army

25 January 1945

SUBJECT: Critical Shortages of Signal Equipment

TO : Signal Officer, 80th Infantry Division

1. The following items of signal equipment are selected critical shortages existing in this Organization.

Axle, RL-125	1
Axle, RL-27	1
AN/VRC - 3	28
Cover, BC-96	75
Dynamotor, DM-37	31
Dynamotor, DM-35	3
Flashlight, TL-122	126
Lantern, electric, portable hand	13
Test Unit, I-176	5
Tube, VT-164	167
" VT-165	27
Maintenance equipment, E-13	2
Panel, AL 140, w/case CS 150	66
" AL 141, w/case CS 150	60
Voltmeter, I-166	4

2. This unit is very much in need of dynamotors, DM-37. Transmitters received from Signal Supply were minus dynamotors which prevents them of being of any use. Request necessary action be taken to expedite this item in the quantity as shown above.

SIDNEY COHEN
Capt, 702nd Tank Bn
Supply Officer

HEADQUARTERS, 702nd TANK BATTALION
Office of the Supply Officer
APO #403, U. S. Army

25 January 1945

SUBJECT: Critical Quartermaster Items.

TO : Office of the Division Quartermaster, 80th Infantry Division.

1. The following is a shortage list of critical items existing in this Battalion.

Helmet, Combat

Jacket, field

Size: 34-R ea. 20
36-R ea. 40
38-R ea. 52

Raincoat

Size: Large ea. 40

Shoes, Service

Size: 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ EE, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ EE, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ EE,
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ EE

Non-tariff sizes:

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ AA, 12B, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ B
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ D, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ E

Handkerchief

T/E ITEMS

Flag, Geneva Convention, Red Cross

Bunting, Ambulance and marker
w/staff. ea. 4

Pot, cook, mountain type for outfit cooking

Kits, barber ea. 4

Brushes; urinal type

Selector, qualification card.

Candies

SIDNEY COHEN
Capt, 702nd Tk Bn
Supply Officer

ENCLOSURE NO. 4

SHIPPING TICKET
PX RATIONS

PROX...

ISSUE DATE: - 28 January 1945

M/R STRENGTH 700

ORGANIZATION 702nd TANK BATTALION

ITEM	UNIT	ALLOW PER 100	AMOUNT ISSUED
CIGARETTES	PKG	700	4500
MATCHES	BOX	600	4200
TOBACCO	PKG	30	210
CHEWING TOBACCO	PKG	4	28
CANDY	BAR	300	2100
CHEWING GUM	STICK	700	4900
TOOTH BRUSHES	EACH	8	56
TOOTH PASTE	EACH	10	70
RAZORS	EACH	3	21
RAZOR BLADES	EACH	200	1400
SHAVING CREAM	EACH	22	154
SOAP	BAR	22	154

CLASS I SUPPLIES

ISSUED:- 28 JANUARY 1945
MENU:- 29 JANUARY 1945

RATIONS REQUESTED FOR
ISSUE:- 1 FEB 1945

STRENGTH 520 "B" RATIONS
 _____ "10-1" "
 _____ "C" "
 _____ "K" "

STRENGTH 700 "B" RATIONS
 _____ "10-1" "
 _____ "C" "
 _____ "K" "

SORRY, NO SHIPPING TICKET ON CLASS I SUPPLIES.

ISSUED TO:- /s/ J.F. Rizzone

ORGANIZATION:- 702nd TANK BATTALION

R E S T R I C T E D

TABLES FOR S-1 SUMMARY

702d Tank Battalion

TABLES NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY. (Figures taken from Battle Casualty Reports up to and including 31 January 1945, for the period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>NIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
5 Jan	***	***	1	***	***	*****	7
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	4
7 Jan	1	***	3	***	3	7	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
9 Jan	***	1	***	***	***	1	*****
10 Jan	***	***	2	***	***	2	1
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
12 Jan	***	***	***	***	***	*****	1
13 Jan	***	***	***	2	***	2	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
16 Jan	***	***	***	***	***	*****	1
17 Jan	***	***	***	***	***	*****	1
18 Jan	1	***	2	***	3	***** 6	*****
19 Jan	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
20 Jan	***	***	***	***	***	*****	2
21 Jan	***	****	2	***	***	2	*****
22 Jan	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
23 Jan	***	***	***	***	***	*****	2
24 Jan	***	***	***	***	***	*****	1
25 Jan	***	***	3	***	***	3	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
27 Jan	2	***	2	***	***	4	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
<hr/>							
TOTAL	4	1	17	2	6	30	20

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PW's</u>
*****	*****
22 Jan	42
*****	*****
<hr/>	
TOTAL	42

R E S T R I C T E D

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
1 Jan	1
*****	***
10 Jan	5
*****	***
12 Jan	8
*****	***
16 Jan	22
17 Jan	6
*****	***
20 Jan	4
*****	***
23 Jan	2
*****	***
25 Jan	38
*****	***
28 Jan	1
*****	***
30 Jan	4
*****	***
	<u>91</u>
TOTAL	91

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945, incl.

NO.

<u>2</u>	Silver Star Medals.
<u>8</u>	Bronze Star Medals.
<u>1</u>	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star.
<u>35</u>	Purple Heart Award.
<u>4</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.
<u>2</u>	(2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.

William B. Jacobs
WILLIAM B. JACOBS,
Capt, 702d Tank Bn,
S-1.

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

RESTRICTED

16 March 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report- February 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D.C.

1. In compliance with paragraph 2b, Section III, Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army, the following comments, observations and recommendations are submitted:

a. EQUIPMENT:

(1) Thirteen (13) rocket launchers (T-34) were received and installed on M-4 tanks. In addition one modified launcher was installed on light tank M-5. This vehicle has not been received to date.

(a) The launchers were broken down 4, 4, 5, to the medium companies.

(b) The method of operation satisfactorily standardized in this tank battalion and infantry division is to have the targets (500 X 600) chosen by the Infantry CT Commanders, positions chosen by the "tankers", and surveyed in by Division Artillery. The rockets are fired on request of the Infantry and checked for friendly personnel clearance by the Division Artillery F.D.C.

(c) Over 3000 rounds have been fired at various types of targets over varied terrain with excellent results. All ammunition is fired with 50 per cent

RESTRICTED

380-67, 2

MAY 2 1945

13161

12

RESTRICTED

per-quick and 50 percent delay fuze settings.

(d) With increased practice the percentage of failures to fire has decreased to approximately 3 percent per lead (90).

(e) Resupply and reconditioning of the rockets is a major problem and factor in the selection of positions.

(f) Maximum observed range obtainable was 4600 yards.

(g) This Battalion and the supported Infantry Regiment Commanding Officers are highly in favor of the rockets. PW reports indicate the opposite impression by the Germans.

(h) While the decrease in fighting power of the medium tank company is appreciated, it is felt that in a separate tank battalion operating w/ an Infantry Division, this factor CAN be overcome by the installation on the light tank (M-5) and the reinforcement of the medium company by one platoon of this company so equipped.

(i) The T-34 is invaluable as a close support weapon against towns and enemy occupied woods.

(2) 1/4 ton trailers:

Throughout operations every possible effort has been made to feed all men three (3) hot meals a day. The addition to the T/E of each company in T/O & # 17-25 of one (1) 1/4 ton trailer to carry hot water heating unit and cans, insulated would

RESTRICTED

sure all men receiving two (2) hot meals during actual operations. No increase in any personnel or equipment other than this addition is necessary.

(3) Ammunition:

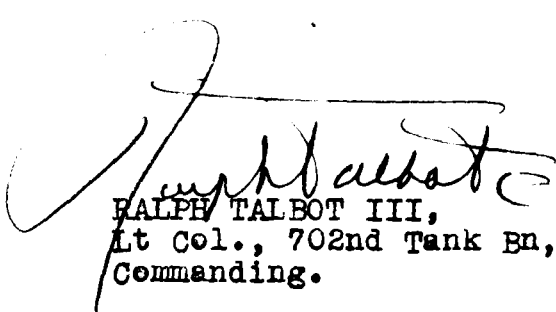
75mm and 76mm canister is highly desired for woods as well as open fighting.

(4) Company trucks:

Each Company must have two (2) company trucks, the cost of the vehicle will be many times repaid by the saving of clothing and equipment gained. (See After Action Report for January 1945).

(5) 76mm Guns on M-4 Tanks:

Less flash is imperative in order to enable the tank commander to sense the burst. A temporary expedient of a muzzle brake issue for guns now on hand is desirable.


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col., 702nd Tank Bn,
Commanding.

Auth: 30, 80th Inf
nit: *W.H.*
Date: 1 March 1945

1945

Section I - Summary of Operations (1-3)

The period 1 February to 4 February 1945 found the battalion assembled in the vicinity of Altlinster conducting maintenance of vehicles, troop rehabilitation, and practice firing of reinforcements.

The companies were located as follows:

Company "A" - Teuland
Company "B" - Souglinster
Company "C" - Godbrange
Company "D" - Altlinster

On February 4 the battalion received Field Order No. 30, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division. The 80th Division reinforced was to attack 070200 February 1945, cross Our and Sauer rivers, breach the Siegfried Line and continue the attack to the northeast. 702d Tank Battalion's Company "A" was attached to the 313th Infantry Regiment, Company "B" attached to the 319th Infantry Regiment. The remainder of the battalion was to emplace all available weapons for fire on targets east of the Our and Sauer rivers.

In compliance with the above Field Order, Companies "B" and "C" moved to the areas of their respective combat teams, "B" Company moving to Beaufort; and "C" Company to Settenorf. Company "A" reported to 313th Field Artillery Battalion to reinforce the fire of that unit.

The battalion moved to Telernach on the 5th of February.

COMPANY "A" 4 FEBRUARY TO 26 FEBRUARY 1945:

Company "A" reported to Headquarters 313th Field Artillery Battalion, 5 February. Two of its platoons plus one section of 105-mm assault guns were placed in indirect fire positions to reinforce the fire of the field artillery. The remaining platoon fired direct fire missions on pill boxes located across the Our River from positions southwest of Beaufort. The Company continued carrying out the above until 14 February at which time the unit was attached to the 317th Infantry Regiment and assembled in Beaufort, prepared to move across the Sauer River at Willingen on regimental order. The Company moved across the river 15 February to an assembly area in the vicinity of 003420.

The Company remained in this assembly area until 18 February while the company officers conducted route and employment reconnaissance within the regimental Zone of Advance.

At 0600, 18 February 1945, the Company attacked north from the Sauer River in support of the 317th Infantry. The attack continued until the 25th of February and during the complete operation the company used two platoons working closely with the assaulting battalions while the third platoon counting the P34 rocket launchers furn- 5

ished general support from indirect firing positions. During the drive the Company assisted in clearing the towns of Tockst, Hollendorf, Busbaum, Bettingen, Weitingen and Weitingen.

COMPANY "C", 4th INFANTRY DIVISION, 25 FEBRUARY, 1945:

Until the 13th of February the Company supported the attack of the 318th Infantry from firing positions east of the Oker river in the vicinity of Beaufort. Two platoons plus one of their sections were placed under the control of the 314th Field Artillery Battalion and fired indirect fire missions. The remaining platoons fired direct fire on targets across the river from positions in the vicinity of Dieleback. This platoon destroyed one enemy assault gun and one tank from this position.

One platoon moved from Beaufort on the 18th of February and moved to Millingen with the mission of protecting the bridge site. Two platoons occupied this position until 13 February at which time it crossed the river with the rest of the company.

When crossing the river the company placed one platoon of four tanks in direct support of each of the three battalions while the four tanks mounting 134 rocket launchers remained under Regimental Control.

The Company remained inactive except for two limited objective attacks until the 21st of the month. The first platoon while advancing with the third battalion of the 318th Infantry destroyed an enemy assault gun on one of these attacks.

Company "C", with one platoon subattached to each of the Infantry battalions, attacked with Regiment north from its Oker river bridgehead on the 18th of February. The attack continued against determined resistance until the 20th of February at which time the towns of Bettingen, Weitingen, Weitingen and Niedergerken had been cleared.

COMPANY "C", 4th INFANTRY DIVISION, 25 FEBRUARY, 1945:

The Company assembled in Bettingen 5 February and supported the 319th Infantry by fire initially from positions on the east side of the river. Two platoons reinforced the fire of the 30th Field Artillery Battalion while the third platoon supported the second battalion of 319th Infantry by direct fire from positions in Bettingen.

The first elements of the Company crossed the river 12 February when one platoon crossed in the vicinity of Hollendorf. This platoon assisted the third battalion in reducing pillboxes northwest of Hollendorf.

The 319th Infantry attacked north from its Oker river bridgehead 0600, 18 February, with the rest of the 30th Division. One platoon of Company "C", 702d Tank Battalion, subattached to each battalion, with the rocket guns in general support.

The drive continued and by the 28th of February the towns of

Kerperich, Senric, Geichlingen, Obergackler, Mutschell, Weidingen, Oberraden, Lehr, and Niederagegen had been cleared of the enemy.

Company "C" had two tanks disabled during this action.

ATTACHMENT TO THE 76TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

The 702d Tank Battalion received orders from Headquarters XII Corps on 26 February 1945 that it was detached from the 80th Infantry Division and attached to the 76th Infantry Division.

The battalion was immediately assembled in vicinity of Niederagegen and moved to an assembly area near Ferschweiler the night of 26 February. The next morning "A", "B", and "C" Companies were attached to the 335th, 304th, and 417th Infantry Regiments respectively, and advanced with them southeast from Ferschweiler on the drive towards Trier and the Mosel River. This attack was still in progress at the end of the month.

COMPANY "D", 1 FEBRUARY TO 28 FEBRUARY 1945:

Company "D" had one platoon of light tanks operating with each of the medium tank companies throughout the month.

REMARKS ON F34 ROCKET LAUNCHERS:

The battalion was equipped with F34 Rocket Launchers early in February, with four such launchers each going to "A", "B", and "C" Companies.

It was found during the attacks along and north of the Sauer River that these rockets can furnish very effective support from indirect fire positions just in rear of the advancing troops. The general practice was to place the rockets under Regimental Control so they could be used anywhere in the Regimental Zone when needed. Due to their wide dispersion they are practically worthless against point targets, but are very effective in breaking up troop concentrations in woods or towns.

Charles J. Simmons
CHARLES J. SIMMONS,
Major, 702d Tank Bn.
3-3.

Section III, Page 8.

1. The beginning of the month found the Battalion located in an assembly area northwest of Luxembourg. Performance of general maintenance being made and property checked. This period enabled the Battalion to send the troops for showers and provide them with clean clothes, along with a little motion picture entertainment with use of the Battalion movie projector, film being obtained from Special Services of Division. It was about the middle of the month when the Battalion was allocated fourteen (14) 9-34 Rockets. Medium tanks were sent to 501st Ordnance Company for mounting. Demonstration of their use was put on a few days later. It was shortly thereafter that they were used against the enemy. At the end of the month the Battalion was attached to the 76th Infantry Division.

2. For a report on critical shortages existing at end of the month see Inclosure 1.

Class I:

a. Rations consumed for the month of February were as follows: 86% Type "B", 3% Type "C" and 11% Type 10-1.

b. The planned menus were much better toward the end of the month, with chicken, beef, etc. being received which boosted the morale of the men highly.

c. Water consumed during month increased slightly over last month due to the vast change in the weather. No difficulties encountered.

d. Coal continued to be critical during first part of month with high priorities going to Medical installations. However this organization continued to draw coal from captured stock pile at Wilts, Luxembourg. When we moved to Diekirch O.D.A.M. informed us we would be able to pick up 4 ton at Class III dump, this amount met our requirements.

Class II:

a. HE width shoes still critical, none being received. Approximately 30% of shortages on stove one-burner were received during the month, making the tankers very happy. Shortages on Barber equipment was received this month.

b. Replacement tanks received during month included some with 7mm guns bringing the total of this type in the organization up to eleven.

c. This organization was allocated fourteen (14) Rockets 7-34 during the month, at the same time being allotted 2000 rounds of Rocket Ammunition which presented a Class V problem, also a tremendous transportation problem. Such a supply of this type of ammunition necessitated loading and unloading many many times.

RESTRICTED

Section III, page 9.

d. An article in magazine "Army Talks" was observed, concerning the use of anti-dim on periscopes and telescopes. Companies were given an issue of anti-dim for this purpose with successful results.

Class III:

a. No particular problems encountered. Distance to Dump too great for a small period of time.

Class IV:

a. Post exchange items were issued each Sunday of the month.

b. Companies having accumulated PX items which are in excess of their use have been instructed to turn same items into 3-4, they are in turn sent to hospital installations where they can be readily used. Items include tooth paste, shaving cream, soap, etc.

Class V:

a. A total of 6400 rounds of Rocket Ammunition for Rocket T-34 allocated to the Battalion during the month with three separate issues being made. 2000 rounds were initially issued with issues of 3900 rounds and 500 rounds being picked up subsequently. This ammunition presented a number of difficulties on transportation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that compressor, air-portable, gas-engine, 16 cu. ft. capacity, stock number 66-C-1175 which is now authorized in tool set, Company, special, A.F. be replaced with Compressor, air-portable type, 4 cu. ft., gas-engine driven, stock number 66-C-1380. The Compressor presently authorized is much too big for the amount of service it performs. If this change was authorized it would afford more space in the vehicles that carry this item of equipment and the new type compressor would serve the same purposes. This organization is authorized a total of five (5) on the basis as mentioned above.

RESTRICTED

S-2
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 U. S. ARMY

16 March 1945.

Initials CM

Intelligence Summary-702nd Tank Battalion-February 1945.

In the month of February, the main action of the 702nd Tank Battalion centered around the Saffreid Line breaching operation carried out by the 80th Division in the vicinity of the German town of Wallendorf. During the initial stages of the operation this battalion did not engage the enemy, and the only enemy activity reported by units of this command was sporadic artillery, mortar, and nebelwerfer fire. An increased use of the nebelwerfer by the enemy to augment his volume of fire was reported throughout the month.

Our tanks first crossed the Sauer River on 12 February, and directly engaged the enemy. They were found to be very effective in driving the enemy inside their pillboxes, and in supporting the advance of our combined infantry-demolition teams. Initially only German Volksgrenadier units were contacted, the most important being the 352 VG Div., the 79 VG Div., and the 9 VG Div. Attempting to relieve the 352nd, the 560 VG Div. also engaged our troops. On the 17th, a new type of armored, self-propelled AT Gun, the Hetzer was engaged. This is essentially a high velocity 75mm gun mounted on a modified Mk. V carriage, with very sloping front plates and sponsons. The gun has a very limited traverse and is mainly traversed by opposite rotation of the tracks, enabling the gun carrier to turn in place. This gun is part of the organizational equipment of the AT Bn. of the VG division, and has been used very successfully as an entrapping weapon in defensive tactics.

On 19 February, elements of the 2nd Pz. Div. were contacted by the division on our right. Within a few days all elements of the armored division were contacted by this unit. Although this organization was to be the counter attack force saved to assault any unit able to break through the Line, it lacked sufficient power to unfold a real blitzkrieg. The attack resembled an infiltration, and was easily held and thrown back. The basic tank weapon of this unit was Mk. V. A number of Mk. V's were destroyed by their own crews when they were surrounded and out of gas. The enemy evidenced a lack of gas, and often had to use his tanks in "dug in" positions or as an Assault Gun or AT gun would be used. At no time were tanks used in a mass assault.

Throughout the period mines (both AT and AP), tank obstacles, and demolitions were used extensively. Road conditions were also in the Germans favor, for the countryside could boast very few paved or wide roads. This lack of a good road net seems to have been purposeful on the enemy's part, but was not completely effective in halting our advance.

The morale of the enemy troops facing us constantly deteriorated throughout the period. But a small minority, generally those in control, clung to the theory that in some manner Germany would win.

RESTRICTED

Inlosure No. 1, page 10.

Critical shortages now pending in this organization are as follows:

ORDNANCE

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Binoocular, M13	19 ea
Tires, 600x16	5 ea
Tubes, 600x16	6 ea
Tires, 750x20	17 ea
Tubes, 750x20	6 ea
Battery, 6 volt	4 ea
Matches, wrist (all jewels)	24 ea
Ford Engine Parts	
Chain, tire, 600x16	10 pr
Chain, tire, 750x20	4 pr
Spare parts for Cal.30 MG 1919A4	

SIGNAL

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
AM/URC-3	21
Cover, BC-96	75
Flashlight, TL-122	40
Test unit, I-176	5
Transmitters, BC 604	7
Maintenance Equipment ME-13	1
Voltmeter, I-166	4

QUARTERMASTER

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Flag, Geneva Convention, Red Cross	4
Ambulance and marker w/staff	
Pans, cake, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x16"x1-3/8"	11
Pot, cook mountain type for outfit cooking	
Selector, qualification card	
Brushes, urinal type	

RESTRICTED

FORM NO. 1-1 (REVISED)

702d Tank Battalion

TABLE NUMBER 1.

TABLE OF CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF
CASUALTY - (Figures taken from
Battle Casualty Reports up to and
including 18 March 1945 for the
period 1 February 1945 - 28 Febru-
ary 1945.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>DE</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD'S</u>
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
4 Feb	***	***	***	***	***	*****	2
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
6 Feb	***	***	1	***	***	*****	1
7 Feb	1	***	***	***	***	*****	1
8 Feb	***	***	2	***	***	*****	2
9 Feb	***	***	1	***	***	*****	1
10 Feb	***	***	2	***	***	2	*****
11 Feb	***	***	***	***	***	*****	3
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
14 Feb	***	***	***	***	***	*****	2
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
16 Feb	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
17 Feb	***	1	***	***	***	1	*****
18 Feb	2	***	3	***	***	5	1
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
20 Feb	1	***	4	***	***	5	*****
21 Feb	***	***	2	***	***	2	*****
22 Feb	2	***	***	2	***	4	*****
23 Feb	***	***	***	***	***	*****	3
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
27 Feb	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
28 Feb	***	***	1	***	***	*****	*****
	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>14</u>

TABLE NUMBER 2.

THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS CAPTURED

None

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

23

TABLE 3 (CONT'D).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
1 Feb	2
4 Feb	11
8 Feb	19
11 Feb	8
14 Feb	8
17 Feb	7
23 Feb	6
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>61</u>

TABLE NUMBER 4.

DEGREES AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45 Incl.

<u>NO.</u>	
2	Silver Star Medal.
11	Bronze Star Medal.
27	Purple Heart Award.
5	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.
2	(2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403, C/O POSTMASTER NEW YORK, NEW YORK

RESTRICTED

13 April 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - March 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2b, section III, Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army, the following comments are submitted:

- a. No particular change in T/O or T/E for this unit other than those enumerated in previous After Action Reports.
- b. No items of general interest are submitted.

W
80-1-1629

RALEY TALBOT III,
Lieutenant Colonel,
702nd Tank Battalion,
Commanding.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
RESTRICTED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
FOR SECURITY COMMITTEE, July 1945
Aug. 1945

13161

REC-1

RESTRICTED

CG, 80th Inf. Div.

it:

Date: 1 April 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MARCH 1945

Section I - Summary of Operations (S-3)

The 1st of March found the 702nd Tank Battalion attached to the 76th Infantry Division. The Division was at this time engaged on the drive South to Trier and the Moselle River from the vicinity of Ferschweiler (L1441).

During the above mentioned operation the Companies were attached to the three Regiments of Division as follows: Company A to 385th Infantry, Company B to 304th Infantry, and Company C to 417th Infantry.

The Battalion CP was located in Meckel (L1244).

The Companies continued on this mission until the 76th Infantry Division reached the Moselle and contacted troops of the 10th Armored Division on the 3rd March at which time the Battalion was assembled in the vicinity of Meckel (L1244) and attached to the 17th Armored Group to form a Task Force to be known as Task Force Onaway.

Task Force Onaway was composed of the following troops:

- Headquarters 17th Armored Group
- 702nd Tank Battalion
- 76th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
- 2 Battalions of Infantry
- 1 Company of Engineers
- 1 Company supported Tank Destroyers
- 1 Platoon of Military Police
- 1 Battalion of Light Artillery

The 76th Infantry Division was to advance East in accordance with F.O. #6, Headquarters XII Corps; "XII Corps advances H Hour 4 March 1945, seize West bank of Rhine River between Andernach (P7605) and Koblenz (P9095) on two routes with the 4th Armored Division on the left followed by the 5th and 80th Infantry Divisions and the 76th Infantry Division on the right. The 702nd Tank Battalion attached to the 17th Armored Group. The 17th Armored Group Headquarters attached to the 76th Infantry Division."

The plan of attack for the 76th Infantry Division was as follows. The 304th Infantry Regiment to attack the night of 3 March 1945, establish and secure bridgehead across the Kyll River, vicinity of Kyll (L1741). Engineers to build bridge, to be completed 0600 4 March 1945 at which time tanks will cross in support of expanding bridgehead and continue advance to the East.

Due to heavy mortar and artillery fire on the bridgesite and difficult approaches to the bridgesite itself, the bridge was not completed until late the 5 March 1945, at which time the Task Force crossed and assembled in the vicinity of Priest (L2045)

SECRET

Using a regular march formation with tanks leading, the Task Force started to advance 1200 6 March 1945 North to Speicher (L2149) and then East. The column advanced against moderate artillery fire to a position west of the town of Herforst (L2550) where a crater in the road halted the column.

Due to numerous road blocks and craters, making the advance by the tanks very difficult, the Infantry was pushed ahead the night of 6 March 1945 with the mission of taking Herforst (L2550) and continuing the attack to Binsfeld (L2652) the next morning. The tanks were to support the attack by fire from positions East of Herforst (L2550) until the route was cleared, at which time they were to move with the Infantry.

The attack progressed as planned and Binsfeld (L2652) had been cleared by sundown 7 March 1945.

Two columns composed of an Infantry Battalion and one Tank Company were used in continuing the attack East from Binsfeld (L2652) the night of 7 March 1945. One column advanced along the route to Binsfeld (L2652), Niederzail (L2853) and Landcheid (L3054) while the second column moved over the route Binsfeld (L2652) to Bruck (L3151). The northern column by late afternoon had succeeded in reaching and clearing Landcheid (L3054) while the southern column was still having difficulty in reaching Bruck (L3151). In view of this situation it was decided to abandon the effort to break through on the South and make an effort to seize Burg (L3255) and the bridge over the Salm River located in Burg (L3255).

The 702nd Tank Battalion plus one Company of Infantry attacked Burg (L3255) at 1820 8 March 1945 in compliance with this decision and succeeded in capturing the town in 20 minutes, however, the bridge was blown as the advancing troops entered the town.

After the completion of the capture of Burg (L3255), Task Force Onaway was dissolved and the three Medium Tank Companies attached one to each Infantry Regiment. The Companies thus supported the advance of the 76th Infantry Division East to Wittlick (L3954) which was entered on 12 March 1945.

On 11 March 1945 the Battalion was detached from the 76th Infantry Division and attached to the 80th Infantry Division which was assembling in the vicinity of Remich, Luxemburg in preparation for a movement East across the Sauer River. The Battalion assembled in this area late 12 March 1945 and the three Medium Tank Companies were immediately attached to Combat Teams with A Company to CT317, B Company to CT318 and C Company to CT319. A and B Companies moved without delay to forward assembly areas vicinity of Irsch, while C Company remained in Kollingen (P9706) pending the movement forward of the 319th Infantry Regiment.

The Battalion CP moved to Beurig (L1512) the night of the 12 March 1945.

COMPANY "A", 13 MARCH TO 22 MARCH 1945:

Company A advancing from Irsch with the 317th Infantry Regiment 13 March 1945 assisted the Regiment in clearing the towns of Greimerach (L2407) and Oberzerf (L2310) and by the morning of 15 March 1945 was attacking Scheiden (L2705) with the 3rd Battalion. Both Scheiden and the neighboring town of Waldholzbach (L2906) were captured on the 16th March 1945 as the 10th Armored Division passed through the Regiment to continue the attack East.

3

After the 10th Armored Division had passed through, the 317th Infantry Regiment was ordered to advance behind them and clean out remaining pockets of resistance. Company A moved last with them normally carrying one Company of Infantry of the leading elements on its tanks during the rapid advance. Upon reaching the vicinity of Daddurkheim (R3195) 22 March 1945 the Company was placed under Battalion control and assembled in Freinsheim (B3401).

COMPANY "B", 13 MARCH TO 22 MARCH 1945:

Company B assembled in Zerf (L2411) with the 318th Infantry Regiment 13 March 1945 and one Platoon was sub-attached to each Battalion initially.

The 1st Platoon sub-attached to the 2nd Battalion advanced to Weiskirchen (B3307) on the 14 March 1945 and were cut off that night by German troops that had been by-passed during the advance. The remainder of the Company with the 3rd Battalion 318th Infantry at once moved on the town from the North West and succeeded in reaching it late 15 March 1945. The Company was released from attachment to the 318th Infantry Regiment 16 March 1945 and for the exception of one platoon attached to Company C, saw no action between that time and the 22 March 1945.

COMPANY "C", 13 MARCH TO 22 MARCH 1945:

Company C attached to the 319th Infantry Regiment had one platoon sub-attached to each Infantry Battalion on the advance from Beurig (L1512). During the initial advance the Company assisted in capturing the towns of Britten (L2303), Bergen (L2404), Losheim (L2801), Niederlosheim (L3000) and Nunkirchen (Q3598).

After the 10th Armored Division passed through the Regiment the same sub-attachments were retained and the Platoons advanced with the respective Battalions through St. Wendel (Q5996) and Kaiserslautern (R0294) to Maxdorf (R4098). The Company was assembled under Battalion control in Freinsheim (B3401) on 22 March 1945.

COMPANY "D", 13 MARCH TO 22 MARCH 1945:

During this period one Platoon of the Company was attached to each B and C Companies and operated as an additional Platoon with these Companies. The 2nd Platoon of the Company was attached to the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and operated with that Unit screening the flanks of the 80th Infantry Division during its rapid move into Germany.

The Battalion moved from its assembly area in Freinsheim (B3401) on 24 March 1945 to the new area of the 80th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Rockenhausen (L0614). The entire unit conducted rehabilitation of equipment and personnel in this area until 27 March 1945.

On 27 March 1945 the Battalion less Company C assembled just East of Mainz (B3856) in preparation for a crossing of the Rhine River.

RESTRICTED

The 80th Infantry Division planned to force a crossing of the Rhine River at Mainz (M3856) with the 317th and 318th Infantry Regiments, while at the same time the 319th Infantry Regiment was to move over the Rhine River through the bridgehead of the 5th Infantry Division and establish a bridgehead over the Main River at Bischofsheim (M2454).

Company C 702nd Tank Battalion was to support by fire the crossing of the 319th Infantry Regiment over the Main River. Companies A and B were to support the crossing over the Rhine River of the 317th Infantry Regiment with Company B reverting to the 318th Infantry Regiment after the 317th Infantry Regiment had secured a foothold on the East bank.

The attack jumped off 0100 28 March 1945 and progressed according to plan against moderate resistance.

Company B crossed the Rhine River 291300 March 1945 and assisted the 318th Infantry Regiment in capturing the towns of Hassloch (M5154), Niederbausen (M4174) and Rambach (M3868).

Company C crossed the Main River with the 319th Infantry Regiment clearing the towns of Wicker (M4759 and Delkenheim (M4561).

Company A did not cross the Rhine River until 291945 March 1945 at which time it assembled in Wiesbaden (M3564) with the 317th Infantry Regiment in Division reserve.

The 702nd Tank Battalion moved North with the 80th Infantry Division 31 March 1945 and at month's end was located as follows:

Battalion CP	- Neukirchen (H1353)
A Company - attached to 317th Infantry Regiment	- Niedergrezbach (H0758)
B Company - Battalion control	- Rollshausen (H0952)
C Company - attached to 319th Infantry Regiment	- Remsfeld (H2168)
D Company - Battalion control	- Schrecksbakh (H092497)

Charles D. Sammons
CHARLES D. SAMMONS,
Major, 702nd Tank Battalion,
S-3.

RESTRICTED

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MARCH 1945

Section II - Summary of Intelligence Operations (S-2)

During this month intelligence activities for the Battalion can be divided into two phases. From the 1st until the 13th March 1945 this organization operated attached to the 76th Infantry Division and worked as a unit in their sector. Resistance here was light, consisting mainly in extensive demolitions and heavy concentrations of light caliber artillery and nebelwerfers. Anti tank weapons were reported but rarely met, and artillery and mines took the greatest toll of casualties. In one freak incident a medium tank attempting to by pass a bridge, hit a mine of undetermined size and became a total wreck with all crew members killed by the concussion. The mine was believed to be an ariel bomb, considering the damage caused.

Units contacted during this operation were disorganized and confused by the many forceful American drives, and had broken up into small combat units with very little centralized control. Major units identified were the 276 VG Division, the 560 VG Division, and the 2nd Pz Division, but they never organized any coordinated defensive sector.

During the second phase of operations, this unit was reattached to the 80th Infantry Division and moved to the vicinity of Saarburg. Here a much superior type of German soldier was encountered. They were trained mountain troops, members of the 2nd and the 6 SS Mountain Division. The power of the initial assault by the 80th Infantry Division broke up their defensive organization and robbed them of their will to fight. From the 17 March 1945 onward the enemy was no longer able to develop any defensive potential, and except for a few isolated incidents, retreated in disorder. Hastily formed combat groups were thrown into our path, only to be overwhelmed, surrounded, and captured. Initial terrain difficulties were eventually overcome and in many places the assault took on the role of a road march. At the Rhine River the enemy attempted to halt the advance, using anti aircraft men drawn from the Frankfurt defense area. These were unable to accomplish their mission. All attempts by the enemy, throughout the month of March, to contain our advance, were futile and the end of the month saw this unit approaching the German city of Kassel, 250 miles from the starting point at Saarburg. Due to the conglomerate hodge-podge of troops encountered late in the month, positive identification of units engaged was impossible.

Carl A. Nordstrom
CARL A. NORDSTROM,
Captain, 702d Tank Bn,
S-2.

6

RESTRICTED

1. The Battalion like all Third Army Units traveled many miles this past month. Being temporarily assigned to the 76th Inf.Div. The Battalion crossed the border into Germany for the second time. on 29th February, after having crossed it once while operating with the 80th Inf.Div.all during the latter part of February. Shortly thereafter a task force known as E.F. Onaway was formed under the Command of Colonel Withers, Commanding Officer, 17th Armd.Group, which included this Battalion along with elements of Infantry, Artillery, Tank Destroyers, Medical Units, etc. On the 12th March the Battalion moved to Dous, Luxembourg to an assembly area of the 80th Inf.Div.after receiving orders of the transfer on the 11th March. Leaving this assembly area combat teams were formed once again with the first objective being across the Moselle River in the Saar area. With rapid advances being made daily it wasn't long before crossing the famous Rhine River at Mainz. After pushing into Wiesbaden, orders were received sending us north, up to the Kassel area, at which section the Battalion is now operating in.

2. For a report on critical shortages existing at the end of the month see inclosure No. 1.

CLASS I -

a. Rations consumed for the month of February were as follows:

61% Type "B"
15% Type "C"
9% Type "X"
13% Type 10 in 1
2% Type "D"

b. Class I Supplies for the month of March were received and distributed without any exceptional difficulty. Field Ration "A" was issued for the most part of the month and operational rations being used where tactical conditions warranted them. Presently, operational rations are being used daily since Field "A" Rations are not available, due to the long supply lines and rate of priority.

c. Water consumed during month remained about the same as last month. Whenever Companies were operating too great a distance for the water truck to service them they relied on nearby streams, using halazone tablets or boiling the water to purify it.

d. No difficulties in the procurement of coal, since the Companies took advantage of captured stock piles.

CLASS II -

a. Requisitions for non-tariff shoes were submitted over a month ago in accordance with new procedure and as yet have not been received.

c. Replacement of tanks - very slow due to long supply lines and priority going to class V supplies.

RESTRICTED

7

RESTRICTED**CLASS III -**

Many problems were encountered during the month on this class of supply due to the rapid advances, making the supply lines extremely long. Often times it was necessary to send 90 and 100 miles for gas. It was necessary most of the time to convert a number of ammunition trucks into gas trucks in order to meet requirements. Gas trucks having been dispatched to Class III dumps were gone for as long as two or three days. On several occasions, Oils SAE No. 10 and No. 30 were not available at Class III SP No. 110. In spite of these mentioned difficulties along with others the Battalion never failed to arrive at its destination at the designated time.

CLASS IV -

PX items continued to be issued on Sundays throughout the month. During the last week of the month the Division was operating in an area south of Kassel and captured a town which had a P.W. Camp containing American Personnel. A 33% cut of PX items was made by O.D.Q.M. on all units in the Division which were to be turned over to the American Prisoners of War, with the idea being very highly indorsed by all.

CLASS V -

Lack of transportation in this Organization necessitated leaving 1500 rounds of 4.5 rockets plus fuzes for same at Beurig on the Moselle when the Battalion made the swift advance to the Rhine. It was also necessary to leave two men as guards for this Ammunition. A letter requesting the authorization of an engineer trailer, such as the type to haul bull dozers, was instigated by this Office but was disapproved by higher headquarters. Subsequently this Unit was 270 miles from the location of the ammunition making it unavailable for use. Third Army Headquarters was notified of this matter and it was arranged whereby they would recover this ammunition and notify this Office when guards could be recalled.

RECOMMENDATIONS -

It is recommended that the code color system be used exclusively in the identification of oils, SAE No. 10, 30 and 50. Two systems of marking have been encountered by this Unit, one being the code color marking and the other, having the type of oil marked right on the can. However, it has been found that the cans having the latter system are difficult to identify since the numbers have been obliterated or covered with extraneous matter.

RESTRICTED

8

RESTRICTED

1st INCLOSURE, Page No. 17

Critical shortages are as follows: -

QUARTERMASTER

Flag, Geneva Convention Red Cross	4
Ambulance and Marker w/Staff	
Selector, Qualification Card	1
Brushes, Urinal Type	
Shoes, EE width, all sizes	

ORDNANCE

Binocular, M13	19	Ford Engine Parts
Tubes, 600 x 16	6	Ward la France Parts
Tires, 750 x 20	23	Track, Medium Tank
Tubes, 750 x 20	24	Track, Light Tank
Battery, 6 volt	4	Bogie Wheels, Medium Tank
Watches, Pocket	4	Bogie Wheels, Light Tank
Watches, Wrist	5	Hot Patches

SIGNAL

AN/VRC - 3	22
Cover, BG-96	75
Flashlight, TL 122	70
Test Unit, I-176	5
Transmitters, BC-604	8
Maintenance Equipment, Me 13	1
Voltohmmeter, I-166	4

RESTRICTED

TABIES FOR S-1 SUMMARY

702d Tank Battalion

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY - (Figures taken from Battle Casualty Reports up to and including 18 April 1945 for the period 1 Mar 45 - 31 Mar 45).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD'S</u>
1 Mar	***	***	1	***	***	1	3
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
6 Mar	7	***	8	***	***	15	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
10 Mar	***	***	2	***	***	2	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
12 Mar	***	***	1	***	***	1	3
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
15 Mar	2	***	7	3	***	12	*****
16 Mar	3	***	2	***	***	5	*****
17 Mar	***	1	1	***	***	2	*****
18 Mar	***	***	***	***	***	*****	3
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
TOTAL	12	1	22	3	0	38	9

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

None

TABLE NUMBER 3.

RETIREMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
*****	***
2 Mar	10
*****	***
5 Mar	10
*****	***
14 Mar	27
*****	***
20 Mar	13
*****	***
24 Mar	7
*****	***
28 Mar	2
TOTAL	69

10

RESTRICTED

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45 Incl.

NO.

1 Bronze Star Medal.

23 Purple Heart Award.

3 (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403, C/O POSTMASTER NEW YORK, NEW YORK

14 May 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report - April 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80,
U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2b, Section III, Memorandum #64, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army, the following comments are submitted:

- a. No particular change in T/O or T/E for this Unit other than those enumerated in previous After Action Reports.
- b. No items of general interest are submitted.

Ralph Talbot III
RALPH TALBOT III,
Lieutenant Colonel,
702nd Tank Battalion,
Commanding.

1945
209-032

DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED

BY AUTHORITY OF TAG h.l.c.

24 May 45 IT
Date Initials

SECRET

Auth: CG, 80th Inf Div

Init:

Date: 1 May 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT - APRIL 1945

Section I - Summary of Operations (S-3)

1 April 1945 found the Battalion in the vicinity of Neukirchen (H1353) preparing to move to forward assembly area in the vicinity of Homberg (H1771). Company A was attached to CT 317. Co B was in Division Reserve in vicinity of Homberg. Company C was attached to CT 319. The Battalion (less A, B, and C Companies) was in Division Reserve in vicinity of Homberg.

The action during the month of April 1945 was characterized by a series of rapid advances, due to the disorganization of the enemy as a result of the rapid advances of the Armored Divisions in our sectors.

PERIOD 1 April to 5 April 1945

During this period the 80th Infantry Division engaged in the capture of Kassel (C2203).

Initially Company A was in reserve with CT 317. The Combat Team advanced on 4 April capturing the towns of Niedervellmar (C2107) and Ihringshausen (C2208) to block enemy escape routes from Kassel.

Company B with CT 318, attacked Kassel from the west, and cleared the city itself.

Company C with CT 319, moved around Kassel from the Southwest capturing Bettinhausen (C2402), Oshausen (H2699) and the high ground to Southeast of Kassel.

On the 4th of April Company B was relieved from attachment to CT 318, and one-half of the company attached to each A and B companies. Company D was attached to CT 318 in Company B's place, and assisted the Combat Team in maintaining law and order in Kassel.

PERIOD 6 April to 10 April 1945

The 80th Infantry Division prepared to resume the attack North and East from Kassel when orders were received to stand by for relief by the 69th Infantry Division.

Upon relief by the 69th Infantry Division the 80th Infantry Division moved to the vicinity of Gotha (J0865) and took up a defensive position around the town. During this period B and C Companies were attached to the respective Combat Teams, while Company D was attached to 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop with the mission of protecting the left flank of the division.

The Battalion CP was established in Gotha.

The Combat Teams with the attached tank companies prepared to move east from Gotha 8 April 1945 and capture Erfurt. CT 317 with Company A was to advance on the Northwest portion of the city. CT 318 with Company B was to advance at the same time and seize the Southwest and South part of the city with one battalion moving to east of city by-passing city from South.

CT 319 with Company C was also to by-pass Erfurt and be prepared to advance East on Jena (J6366) and Weimar (J5270).

PERIOD 11 April to 18 April 1945

All of the Rocket Launchers in the battalion were assembled in Headquarters Company at Eberstadt, and placed under the command of Lt. SHORE. The platoon was immediately moved into position vicinity of Mobisburg prepared to support the attack on Erfurt.

The attack on Erfurt progressed as planned, and the town was reported clear, 132200 April 1945.

In the meantime Weimar (J5270) had fallen to CT 319 without a fight.

CT 319 with Company C and Rocket Launcher Platoon then attacked Gera and cleared the town against only moderate resistance.

The Battalion CP moved from Gotha to Weimar, to Gera during this period.

The 80th Infantry Division with 702nd Tank Battalion continued to move east on Chemnitz from Gera, and was prepared to attack the town when on the 18th of April orders were received directing the Division to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Bamberg.

Pursuant to the above mentioned orders the 702nd Tank Battalion moved to the assembly area 19 April 1945. While in this area the companies were located as follows: Battalion CP, Headquarters and Service Companies - Klenkheim (03464), A Company at Stubig (03963), B and C Companies at Lausdorf (03662), D Company at Doscherdorf (03861).

The Battalion moved from the Bamberg area to Nurnberg (03901) 24 April 1945, and continued maintenance and rehabilitation of equipment and personnel.

The Battalion moved out 24 April from Nurnberg with orders to proceed to Regensburg (U1855). After reaching Regensburg the companies were once more attached A company to 317th Infantry, B company to 318th Infantry and C company to 319th Infantry and moved Southeast from Regensburg with the Combat Teams.

S E C R E T

At the close of the period the Battalion CP was established in Ergolds-Bach (U2820), and the companies were advancing South towards the Isar River.

Charles D. Sammons
CHARLES D. SAMMONS,
Major, 702nd Tank Battalion,
S-3

S E C R E T

Auth: CG, 80th Inf Div.

Init:

Date: 1 May 1945

OPERATIONAL REPORT - APRIL 1945

Section II, Intelligence Operations, (S-2)

9. Throughout the month of April, enemy attempts at resistance were marked by their continued feebleness. At only two periods was there any show of strength, and by late in the month our assault had lost its character, and the only proper description for operations engaged in by the Battalion was "road march".

The cities of Hassel and Erfurt were the focal points of resistance, and in the defense of the former, tanks were used in limited numbers. Flak units were the manpower basis for this defense. But these fanatical sacrifice operations served to no value, for the miscellaneous grab-bag units crumbled before our organized assaults after only a token-plus resistance. The tanks which were used in the defense of Hassel were the first we had met in any number since leaving the area of Losheim. The unit involved was the Panzer 100 School, Miserach, and originally had thirty-two tanks, divided into four companies of eight tanks each. Companies 1, 2, and 3 had Mk IV tanks, while 4 was equipped with Mk V's. At first Tiger II's were reported in the vicinity, but they were found to be dead tanks, having been destroyed by their own crews.

No new or unusual weapons were used in the Battalion sector during the month. Enemy military organization was in the last stages of degeneration. The basic defense units were BT's of company and battalion size, and RT's of regimental size. In the case of Erfurt, three of these RT's were combined into a provisional division, named Division Keller. Convalescents, men on furlough, school troops, rear echelon men, stragglers, and Volkstruppen provided the personnel, although the last of these showed a marked tendency to head for home at the ping of the first shot. Flak units filled both the functions of artillery and anti tank weapons. Infantry heavy weapons and regular field artillery were almost nonexistent.

The attitude of the German soldier was one of complete abandonment to his fate. He found his fate lay only in two directions, death or the PW camp, and with a little physical persuasion, generally chose the latter. PW figures grew astronomically, and interrogation degenerated into a simple counting of those who passed through the hills of the PW cage. The German people were completely confused and confusing. Many of them went out of their way to be hospitable to the occupying American, and overt acts by the civilians against our military forces were rare. Whether this servile attitude on the part of the German people will continue can not be ascertained at the present time.

- 10. Losses during period copies not available:
 - 1/500,000 road trip 4, 5, & 6.
 - 1/100,000 3-4, 3-7, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-5, 4-5

Carl H. Handstrom
Capt. 703rd Inf Bn,
S-2

RESUME

TABLES FOR S-1 SUMMARY

702d Tank Battalion

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE
OF CASUALTY - (Figures taken
from Battle Casualty Reports up
to and including 15 May 1945
for the period 1 Apr 45 - 30
Apr 45).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD'S</u>
****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
3 Apr	***	***	1	1	***	***** 2	*****
****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
5 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	1
****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
8 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
9 Apr	***	1	***	***	***	1	*****
10 Apr	1	***	1	***	***	*****	2
11 Apr	1	***	2	***	***	3	*****
12 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
13 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
14 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
18 Apr	***	***	***	***	***	*****	5
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	2	1	9	1	0	13	8

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

None

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
****	***
10 Apr	11
11 Apr	44
*****	***
22 Apr	15
*****	***
28 Apr	3
*****	***
<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	73

ables for S-1 Summary Cont'd.

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded fr 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 Incl.

NO.

<u>2</u>	Bronze Star Medal.
<u>9</u>	Purple Heart Award.
<u>1</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.
<u>1</u>	(2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.

TABLES FOR S-1 SUMMARY

702nd Tank Battalion

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY
For Period 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45, incl.

<u>DATE</u> *****	<u>KIA</u> ***	<u>DOW</u> ***	<u>WIA</u> ***	<u>LIA</u> ***	<u>MIA</u> ***	<u>TOTAL</u> *****	<u>RTD'S</u> *****
3 Apr	***	***	1	1	***	2	*****
****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
5 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	1
****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
8 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
9 Apr	***	1	***	***	***	1	*****
10 Apr	1	***	1	***	***	2	2
11 Apr	1	***	2	***	***	3	*****
12 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
13 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
14 Apr	***	***	1	***	***	1	*****
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
18 Apr	***	***	***	***	***	*****	5
*****	***	***	***	***	***	*****	*****
TOTAL	2	1	9	1	0	13	8

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED
None

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u> *****	<u>NO.</u> ***
10 Apr	7
11 Apr	43
****	***
15 Apr	1
****	***
22 Apr	15
*****	***
<u>28 Apr</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	69

Tables for S-1 Summary, Cont'd.

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 incl.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
<u>1</u>	Silver Star Medal
<u>4</u>	Bronze Star Medals
<u>6</u>	Purple Heart Oak Leaf Clusters
<u>6</u>	Purple Hearts

HEADQUARTERS

702ND TANK BATTALION

ATC 403, c/o POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

8 June 1945

May

SUBJECT: After Action Report - May 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D.C.

1. The inclosed observations and recommendations are hereby made for the After Action Report for the month of May 1945.

17-25, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1 17-17, dated 11 Nov 44 w/change 1
17-26, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1 17-29, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1
17-27, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1

2. Inclosure #1, containing six (6) inclosures, indicate the desired additions and subtractions as combined from the staff combat experience.

3. The below listed changes in the T/O recommended by company commanders and by myself are:

a. The present system of technician ratings be abolished and a system of specialist ratings be instituted, money value ratings to correspond to present technician ratings. However, the enlisted man not to be in a non-commissioned officer class. To be an increase in the effect of the chain of command but not decrease the earning power of the individual soldier.

b. Maintenance sergeant of Headquarters company to have a rating of technical sergeant.

c. Additional personnel for battalion Headquarters section (telephone line crew), three (3) telephone operators; two (2) linemen; one (1) driver, under communications chief to be added.

d. All communications sergeants, exclusive of battalion communications chief, should carry a rating of staff sergeant.

e. Each tank company to have six (6) officers, the additional officer under present T/O & E to be Company Administrative, supply and Mess Officer, and/or Liaison Officer with supported Infantry battalion.

4. New equipment not at present authorized for a separate tank battalion:

a. In addition to any changes shown in inclosures hereto, it is desired that each company be furnished a large kitchen trailer, suitably designed for all-weather operation. This battalion has utilized these trailers during nine and one-half (9½) months of combat, and finds them irreplaceable both from a viewpoint of convenience, adequacy of the preparation of food, and saving of wastage. The maintenance required is practically nil except for infrequent tire replacements.

380-69.2

AUG 6 1945
13161

9

b. A liaison plane with enlisted personnel should be added to Battalion Headquarters Section of a separate tank battalion. The necessary maintenance, tools and spare parts to be added to Battalion Maintenance. This is particularly desirable when operating one (1) Company or a part of a Company with a Combat Team or several separate Infantry Battalions, and in many cases would have prevented the loss of tanks.

c. A twelve (12) drop switchboard and operating personnel, three (3) telephone operators, two (2) linemen and one (1) driver, and one (1) 3/4 ton weapons carrier should be added to the Battalion Headquarters Section, as combat experience has proven that wire communication properly maintained is irreplaceable.

d. All 105mm howitzers should have the power traverse with remote control for the tank commander in the turret.

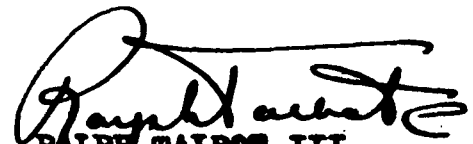
e. White phosphorus ammunition should be substituted for the smoke shells now issued.

f. Tools for removing bad rounds stuck in the chamber from the inside of the turret, is a necessity in combat.

g. All tank commanders must have power traverse remote control suitably located for quick accessibility by the tank commander.

h. All tanks to be equipped with easy accessible ready racks, not to include less fifteen (15) rounds.

1 Incl:


RALPH TALBOT III,
Lt Col, Inf (Arm'd),
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS, 702 TANK BATTALION
Office of the Supply Officer
APO 403, U. S. Army

4 June 1943

SUBJECT: Changes in Tables of Organization and Equipment.
TO : Commanding Officer, 702 Tank Battalion, APO 403.

1. In compliance with Letter, Subject: same as above, Headquarters, Third United States Army, dated 22 May 1945, file AG 320.3 GNMCD-3 and 1st Ind. thereto, the following report is submitted:

a. It should be borne in mind that this report is based on nine and one half months of combat for a separate Tank Battalion operating in support of an Infantry Division necessitating entirely different tactics from those employed by a similar unit in an Armored Division.

b. T/O & E's used at present:

17-23, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1
17-25, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1
17-27, dated 18 Nov 44, w/change 1
17-27, dated 11 Nov 44 w/change 1
17-29, dated 18 Nov 44 w/change 1

c. Generally speaking there was too much equipment authorized for the amount of transportation available and the mission at hand. Thus items listed in blue pencil are not desired or were deemed unnecessary to accomplish our mission and items shown in red are suggested additions.

d. These recommendations are not solely the view of Personnel of this Office. They are a compilation of comments received during combat from many Officers and Enlisted Personnel, some of whom who have paid the supreme penalty.

e. Incl 1, lists the various notes applicable.

f. Incl 2, pertains to Ordnance equipment.

g. Incl 3, pertains to Signal equipment.

h. Incl 4, pertains to Quartermaster equipment.

i. Incl 5, pertains to Engineer equipment.

j. Incl 6, Pertains to Saving of Clothing and
Equipment.

SIDNEY COHEN
Capt, 702 Tank Bn
Supply Officer

ENCLOSURE 1 NOTES

- 1) Authorized to personnel who do not require them.
- 2) Too many authorized.
- 3) Not required.
- 4) Recommend items be replaced with Pistol, Cal..45 and Shoulder Holster.
- 5) One per each letter and Headquarters Company to be equipped with SCR 508 (12 Volt)
- 6) One per Supply Sergeant to carry out system discussed in Inclosure 7.

702nd Tank Bn.

with: 80th Inf Div
Init: CSB
Date: 1 June 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MAY 1945
Section I - Summary of Operations (S-3)

Battalion C.P. established in Ergoldsback (U2820).

The 1st of May found the Medium Companies A, B and C attached to the three Infantry Regiments of the 80th Infantry Division as follows; Company A to CT 317, Company B to CT 318 and Company C to CT 319. Company D was assembled in Bayerbach in Division Reserve.

The three Medium Companies were in the sectors of their respective CTs along the Isar River.

Company B crossed the Isar River vicinity of Dingolfing late 1 May 45 with one platoon in support of each Infantry Battalion of CT 318 and continued to advance to the S.E. with the mission of seizing bridges over the Vils River.

Company C with CT 319, advanced S.E. from the River on the right of CT 318 with the mission of seizing bridges over the Vils River in its zone of advance.

Company A with CT 317 remained in reserve vicinity of Dingolfing.

Little to no resistance was met by the Division during this advance and by the 3 May 45 the troops had reached the Inns River.

The Battalion C.P. was established in Simbach (29277) that same day.

On 3 May 45 Field Message #6, 80th Infantry Division was received. The Field Message read as follows: "80th Infantry Division (Reinf) cross the Inn River vic Braunau - cross on Division order - advance rapidly and seize crossings over Ager, Traun and Alm Rivers in zone. CT 318 relieves 13th Armored Division holding bridgehead at Braunau without delay. CT 319 assemble in Division Reserve. Be prepared to pass through CT 317 and continue the advance to the East on Division order. 702nd Tank Battalion attach one Medium Tank Company to each Infantry Regiment. Company D attached to 80th Reconnaissance Troop."

The above order was carried out against extremely light resistance, and the CTs were directed to continue the advance to the line of the Enns River on the 5th May 45.

In conjunction with the advance of the Combat Teams, Company D with the 80th Ren. advanced from vic Braunau to Lambach (554620) in one day capturing 6000 prisoners.

Battalion C.P. established at Vocklabruck (V4152) 5 May 45.

380-69.2

13161

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
24 Jan 1946
SECRET
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
D. J. Cluff
W. P. A.C.

On 6th May 45 Companies D and A were released from attachment to the 80th Cav. Recon. Bn. and CI 317, and attached to Task Force Smyth. The Task Force in addition to the two Tank Companies was made up of an Infantry Battalion, Engineer Company, Recon. Troop, and the Cannon Company of 317th Infantry.

The mission of the Task Force was to advance South and East of Kirchdorf (V7642) and reduce any enemy resistance encountered North and West of the Enns River.

The Task Force moved out from Kirchdorf (V7642) the afternoon of 6 May 45. The head of the column reached a point five miles South of Kirchdorf where it was halted while discussions concerning the surrender of the German Forces in the area were being conducted with the German Headquarters concerned.

The surrender terms were refused and the advance was continued the next morning, and by 1200 had reached the towns of Garsten (V9323) and Spital (V9517)

At this time General Soeth, Commander of all German Troops in the area surrendered unconditionally to Maj. General McBride, Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division.

All operations from 1 May 45 until the end of the war were characterized by the total lack of resistance put up by the disorganized German Army, and the surrendering of large bodies of German Troops.

V.E. Day found the elements of the Battalion located as follows:

Bn. Hq.	-	Kirchdorf (WV9324)
Co. A	-	Hochmart (WV8031)
Co. B	-	Haselbach (WZ9475)
Co. C	-	Zerchdorf (WV6052)
Co. D	-	Kirchdorf (WV9324)
Hq. Co.	-	Inzensdorf (ZV7345)
Sv. Co.	-	Schlapp (WV5359)

On 12 May 45 the Battalion assembled vic Frankenmarkt (V2247) with the Companies occupying the following towns:

Hq. Co.	-	Frankenmarkt (V2247)
Sv. Co.	-	Frankenmarkt (V2247)
Co. A	-	Schmidham (V2846)
Co. B	-	Vocklamarkt (V2850)
Co. C	-	Vocklamarkt (V2850)
Co. D	-	Walchen (V2848)

The period 12 May 45 to 28 May 45 was spent in rehabilitation of the equipment and personnel of the Battalion. The Battalion maintained law and order in the area occupied by the unit during this period.

The Battalion moved to the area of Lake Gmunden 28 May 45 with the Companies occupying the towns indicated below:

Bn. Hq.	-	Gmunden (V5145)
Hq. Co.	-	Alt Munster (V5040)
Co. A	-	Scharnstein (V6542)
Co. B	-	Rinnbach (V5330)
Co. C	-	Traunkirchen (V525344)
Co. D	-	Grunau (V645365)
Sv. Co.	-	Gmunden (V5145)

Charles D. Sammons

CHARLES D. SAMMONS,
Major, 702nd Tank Bn.,
S-3.

SECRET

Auth: CG, 80th. Inf I

Init: _____

After Action Report -- May 1945

Date: 1 June 1945

Section II Intelligence Operations, S-2

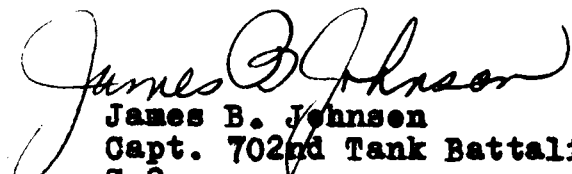
- a. The month of May, marked the end of all enemy resistance and the end of all enemy hostilities. Our assault of the enemy up to the end of the hostilities, continued onward more as a road march than an assault, as the enemy eagerly surrendered in large groups, the closer we compressed them to the advancing forces of the Russians.

At the beginning of the period the enemy offered slight token resistance at our Isar River bridgehead, but our advance carried on so rapidly that the enemy had little chance to carry out demolition of bridges or key terrain or to lay mines. Our troops swiftly advanced to the Enns River where contact was made with the Russians. Before contact was made the German Sixth Army under General Major Seeth surrendered unconditionally to our forces, they occupied an area bounded on the east and south by the valley of the Enns River. The army consisted of the following divisions: 9th Mountain Division, 1st Panzer Division, 3rd Panzer Division, 5th SS Division, Viking, 2nd Ukrainian Division and miscellaneous Brigades all in all around 200,000. After assembling the surrendered Sixth German Army and moving it to the rear areas, the main tasks performed for the rest of the period consisted of setting up road blocks, processing PWs and holding in place all displaced persons.

No new or unusual weapons were used in the Balkanien sector during the period, the enemy after surrendering maintained discipline in his march to the rear and his attitude was one of complete abandonment to his fate.

- b. Maps used during the period:

1/500,000 - Road map 8 and 9
1/100,000- W-7, W-8, W-9
X-7, X-8, X-9
Y-8, Y-9


James B. Johnson
Capt. 702nd Tank Battalion
S-2

SECRET

SECTION III

1. The first seven days of the month found the Battalion mopping up small pockets of enemy resistance as the war came to a climax. Most notable was the operation of a Task Force south into Austria. During this period the Class III problem consumed the major portion of the S-4 time, the Organization being on the move almost continuously.

2. Class I -

a. Rations consumed for the month of May are shown below:

43% Type "A"
48% Type "10-in-1"
1% Type "C"
8% Type "K"

b. The menu of the "A" ration became increasingly poorer, oftentimes there being only two meals to serve. The factors per hundred men were much lower than previously and such items as bread, butter, lard, flour and meat were issued in very poor quantities.

c. A new wrinkle presented itself. As the result of the war, it became necessary to feed displaced persons and a train load of German wounded. This problem was met by the use of two thirds of an operation ration per day.

d. Water supply was adequate, although the problem of keeping personnel from drinking local water was just as great.

3. Class II -

No change

4. Class III

a. Gasoline presented the most trying of supply problems for the first half of the month at least. All Units of the Armored Force were rapidly moving to occupy enemy territory as the war came to an end thus resulting in a huge drain on the various supply points. Frequently four, five or six trucks were gone from the area as much as three or four days, traveling from point to point in the hopes of getting gas.

5. Class IV

a. Gratuitous PX issues were made only twice during the month while the non-gratuitous PX items were more abundant than they had been previously. It is hoped that with the cessation of hostilities more and more of the non-gratuitous issue of PX items will be available.

6. Class V

No change

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That we get going on V-J Day.

INCLOSURE 2	ORDNANCE	Hq Co.	Co "A"	Co "B"	Co "C"	Co "D"	Serv Co.	Med Det.	Total	# 1 add. per Bn Maint	
										Sections per Company Administration	Sections per Battalion Supply and Transportation
(1)	Binoculars, M17	18	1	1	1		5	1	27		
(4)	Carbine, M1A1	70	25	25	25	24	71		240		
(2)	Circle, Aiming, M1		2	2	2	1			6		
(-)	Compass, M2	1	1	1	1				4		
(3)	Finder, Range, M7		4	4	4				12		
(4)	Gun, SMG, Cal., 45	51	92	92	92	76	44		441		
(2)	Launcher, Rocket, M9A1	8					8		16		
(3)	Mortar, 81MM, M1	3	1	1	1		2		7		
(3)	Mount, Range, Finder,		4	4	4				12		
(3)	Mount, Tripod, Cal., 30	9	20	20	20	19	11		98		
	Tool Kit, Arty Mechanics						1		1		
(3)	Carrier, Mortar, 81MM, M21	3							3		
	Car, half-track, M3A2	7							7		
	Car, Arm'd, M8, w/Rad SCR306 and 508	7							7		
	Tank, Medium, (105 How)		1	1	1				3		
	Trailer, 1 Ton Cargo	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	9		
	Trailer, 1/4 Ton Cargo	5							5		
(5)	Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	3	1	1	1	1	2		9		
(6)	Truck 2-1/2 Ton, 6x6	2	1	1	1	1	3		8		
	Truck 10 Ton, wrecker, M1						1		1		

51

INCLOSURE 3 SIGNAL	Hq Co.	Co "A"	Co "B"	Co "C"	Co "D"	Serv Co.	Med Det.	Total
(3) Facible Equipment, RC 58	1							1
(3) Flag Sets, M238	29	23	23	23	22	45	6	171
Radio Sets:								
(3) SCR 510	10	2	2	2	2	3	1	22
SCR 509								3
SCR 508	7	1	1	1	1			11
(3) SCR 608	1							1
Telephone, EES	14	2	2	2	2	5	1	28
Switchboard, BD 72	1							1
BD 71							1	1
Generator PE 75	1						1	2

INCLOSURE 6

SAVING OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT:

During the middle and latter part of November 1944, this Battalion accumulated a sizeable quantity of discarded clothing from the battlefield in the wake of the combat troops. The unserviceable items were turned in through normal channels for salvage while the serviceable pieces were laundered with the intent of ultimately being turned in as excess. At this time the members of the Battalion were in dire need of clean clothing, however, the tactical situation was such that soiled laundry could not readily be collected from all members. Therefore, the existing clean items of clothing were distributed in exchange for like items soiled, which in turn were turned in for laundering. This suggested the possibility of eliminating the existent difficulties of clothing supply.

At that time each man had a duffle bag containing his extra clothing. Sufficient organic transportation was not available in either Company or Battalion Trains to carry these duffle bags, therefore, the extra clothing was carried on the individuals' combat vehicles. If the vehicle encountered enemy fire some or all of this clothing was destroyed; if it became necessary for the crew to abandon the vehicle all of clothing was lost, or if the vehicle was subsequently recaptured this clothing was totally or partially pilfered by the enemy, civilians or friendly troops. If any or all of this clothing became wet or muddy there was a tendency to throw these items away.

There was also a tendency to throw away items which became bulky or cumbersome.

In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances this Battalion relieved all men of their extra clothing and carried it as bulk in the Company Trains issuing out only in exchange for like items which were soiled. This change was highly encouraged and carefully watched by the Battalion Supply Officer. Combat loss replacement requisitions of this Battalion during a six weeks trial period were approximately twenty-five percent of what they were formerly and amazingly low in comparison with requisitions from like Battalions or Units of comparable size. As a result, this system was inaugurated in the line companies with the following results:

(a) Combat replacement requisitions have been approximately twenty-five percent of former totals effecting a corresponding economy.

(b) When tank crews find it necessary to abandon their vehicle the only individual losses are toilet articles since all clothing in their possession is being worn.

INCLOSURE 6 (Continued)

(c) The lapse of time required to get replacement of salvage is practically nil insofar as the individual soldier is concerned since immediate replacement is available through the clean clothing supply.

The overall results of this system have proved highly satisfactory for all concerned and have effected a great savings in replacement costs at the same time keeping the members of this Command well clothed and cleaner.