

HEADQUARTERS  
629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 230, U.S. ARMY

3 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.  
(Thru: Channels)

1. Transmitted herewith is After Action Report for this organization for the month of February 1945.



GLENN COLE  
Lt. Col., Inf (TD)  
Commanding

Incls:

- 1 - Resume of Operations for month of February 1945
- 1 - After Action Report for month of February 1945
- 1 - Battalion Journal for month of February 1945

6427

101-63.7

Incl # 12

42

After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for month of February 1945

RESULT OF OPERATIONS:

For the period 1 to 19 February 1945 the battalion was attached to the 82d Airborne Division. The three destroyer companies were supporting the 504th, 505th and 508th Paratroop Regiments and the 325th Glider Regiment., furnishing direct fire support and anti-tank protection. During this period nineteen (19) strongpoints were neutralized, six (6) pillboxes, one mortar with crew and one (1) Pzkw V with crew were destroyed.

The battalion was in III Corps Reserve from 20 to 24th February 1945 reinforcing the fires of the 408th FA Group. This firing included fourteen (14) registrations and sixty-two (62) harrassing and interdiction and three (3) TOT missions. A total of 3291 rounds of ammunition were expended.

From 25 to 28 February 1945 the battalion was attached to 99th Infantry Division of the VII Corps. The unit was not in contact with the enemy during this period.

One enlisted man, S/Sgt Thomas R. Donovan, Company A, received battlefield appointment as Second Lieutenant. Four enlisted men and one officer received the Bronze Star Medal.

The strength of the battalion at the end of the period was two enlisted men, one Warrant Officer and one Officer below authorized strength.



After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for month of February 1945

1. Enemy: Period 1 to 5 February 1945.

a. Units in Contact:

9th Panzer Division, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th companies of the 11th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, Elements of the 33rd Panzer Regiment and 3rd company of the 9th Anti-tank battalion. Also 89th Volksgrenadier Division, 1st and 3rd companies of the 991st Volksgrenadier Regiment and 1st and 3rd companies of the 189th Anti-tank battalion. The 3rd Parachute Division and the 3rd and 4th companies of the 8th Parachute Regiment. The following are non-divisional units: 1st and 4th companies of Sich battalion, 106th Rest Stamm company, 88th Stamm company, and 1075th Sich company. (For disposition of units, see overlay)

b. Reserves:

Immediate reserves which could affect our mission were approximately one battalion of infantry and 1 company of tanks available for use in our sector.

c. Enemy activity:

The enemy laid mines in road beds and along shoulders of roads used by our troops to reach enemy strongpoints. He used high velocity anti-tank fire from dug-in and well concealed positions. Launched small counterattacks in the vicinity of Udenbreth and Neuhof.

d. Enemy Strength and Morale:

3 Volksgrenadier Divisions, 2 Panzer type Divisions and one Parachute Division were not up to T/O and operating at approximately half strength. Enemy morale was fair and they had practically no knowledge of our situation. Frequently enemy troops were given the mission of occupying a certain strongpoint or sector of high ground only to discover upon arrival that our troops were already in possession of the places which bears out the fact that the enemy had very poor information concerning our front lines.

e. Plans open to enemy:

To defend and utilize commanding ground as strong points. Continue fighting a delaying action using pillboxes and dug-in anti-tank guns. To counterattack with a force of approximately a battalion of infantry supported by a company of tanks northwest in direction to Neuhof and Udenbreth. Terrain was favorable for patrols of squad or platoon size who could attempt to take PWs and attain our units strength and various positions through reconnaissance.

NOTE: From the 6th to the 28th February 1945 there was no contact with the enemy.

After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion for month of February 1945

2. OWN SITUATION:

a. During the period 1 February 1945 to 5 February 1945 the front lines extended from Manderfeld (L008933) to Lanzerath (L002964) to Neuhof (F044024) to Udenbreth (F046034) Germany. During period 6 February 1945 to 25 February 1945 front lines ran along the Roer River from (F112090) to (F096370). During period 25 February to 28 February 1945 front lines were not applicable as unit was not in contact with enemy directly or indirectly.

b. During period 1 February to 5 February 1945 Battalion CP was located in vicinity Hosfeld (P981986). During period 6 February 1945 to 7 February 1945 Battalion CP located P609855 vicinity Regne, Belgium. During period 8 February to 16 February 1945 Battalion CP was located at K870323, vicinity of Raeren, Belgium. During period 17 February to 19 February 1945 Battalion CP located at Vossenack, Germany (F034328). During period 20 February 1945 to 24 February 1945 Battalion CP was at Paustenbach, Germany (K970258). During period 25 February to 26 February 1945 Battalion CP located at Thimister, Belgium (K678301). During period 27 February to 28 February 1945 Battalion CP at Weisweiler, Germany (K994484).

c. Unit was attached to the 82d Airborne Division from 1 February to 19 February 1945, supporting the 504th, 505th, and 508th Para Regts and the 325th Glider Regt. During period 20 February 1945 to 24 February 1945 Battalion was in III Corps Reserve, reinforcing the fires of the 408th FA Gp. During the period 25 February to 28 February 1945 unit was attached to VII Corps and to the 99th Inf Div.

d. During the period 1 February 1945 to 19 February 1945 the units of this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-tank protection to the units of the 82d Airborne Division in their operations against the enemy. During the period 20 February 1945 to 24 February 1945 the battalion in III Corps reserve furnished reinforcing artillery fire to the 408th FA Gp. During the period 25 February to 28 February 1945 battalion was attached to the 99th Inf Div. The 99th Inf Div was in VII Corps reserve and no contact was made with the enemy.

e. Combat efficiency at the end of period was approaching excellent with the arrival of M36 destroyers and sufficient replacements to bring unit up to normal fighting strength.

f. During the period 1 February 1945 to 19 February 1945 a total of nineteen (19) strongpoints were neutralized, six (6) pillboxes were destroyed or neutralized, one (1) mortar with crew and one (1) Pkw V with crew were destroyed and ten (10) PW's were taken and turned over to the infantry. During the period 20 February to 24 February 1945 the battalion reinforced the fires of the 408th FA Gp, firing a total of fourteen (14) registrations, sixty-two (62) harassing and interdiction and three (3) TOT missions expending a total of 3291 rounds of ammunition. During period 25 February to 28 February 1945 unit prepared for future operations with the 99th Inf Div training drivers and gunners in available time. Maintenance and care of equipment was also stressed.

After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion for month of February 1945

3. Administration:

a. During period covered by report administration was processed through the following higher headquarters to which this battalion was attached:

82d Airborne Division -- 1 to 18 February 1945  
 III Corps -- 18 to 22 February 1945  
 99th Infantry Division -- 22 to 28 February 1945

b. Authorized strength and status at beginning and end of periods:

	Auth. Strength			Strength as of 1 Feb 45			Strength as of 28 Feb 45			Net Increase			Net Decrease		
	O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM
	Hq & Hq Co	13	2	110	13	1	109	14	1	109	1	-	-	-	-
Recon Co	7	-	110	6	-	108	6	-	107	-	-	-	-	-	1
Co "A"	6	-	124	4	-	112	5	-	127	1	-	15	-	-	-
Co "B"	6	-	124	5	-	115	6	-	123	1	-	8	-	-	-
Co "C"	6	-	124	7	-	118	6	-	124	-	-	6	1	-	-
Med Det	1	-	15	1	-	15	1	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
BN TOTAL	39	2	607	36	1	577	38	1	605	3	-	29	1	-	1

(For breakdown of gains and losses of personnel see Casualty, Reinforcement and Prisoner Annex, attached)

All requisitions for previous period filled except for 1 Officer requisitioned by name

Personnel requisitions submitted during period:

No. 4 (4 Feb 1945) - for 1 officer (2nd Lt John C. Haldane, wounded, casual returning to duty.)

No. 5 (17 Feb 1945)- for 2 officers (1st Lt. William J. Vann and 2nd Lt. Lester R. Smith, wounded casuals returning to duty. 13 Enlisted Reinforcements.

No. 6 (26 Feb 1945)- for 1 enlisted reinforcements requisitioned by name.

All personnel requisitions for period filled except for two (2) officers requisitioned by name and one enlisted man.

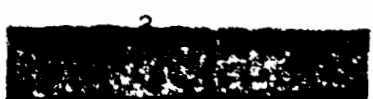
Following named enlisted man received battlefield appointment as 2nd Lt.:

S Sgt Thomas R. Donovan

Company A.

Battlefield promotion recommended during previous period still pending:

1st Lt. Anthony G. Covatta to Captain.



After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion for month of February 1945

3. Administration: (Cont'd)

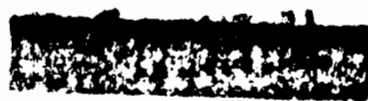
Awards and Decorations made through period:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>GENERAL ORDER</u>
T/4	John W. Mull	33036154	Bronze Star	Sec IV, GO 18, 83d Inf Div dated 1 February 1945
Pfc	Joseph J. Savoir	12035005	Bronze Star	" " "
Major	James A. Deer	-0411791	Bronze Star	Sec VI, GO 13, 28th Inf Div dated 13 February 1945
T/4	Charles J. Lynch	20322185	Bronze Star	" " "
T/5	Albert E. Yasechko	33415697	Bronze Star	" " "

The statement in the January After Action Report to the effect that Sgt. Alfred J. Lipin, ASN 33201739, reported in January After Action Report received the Bronze Star per Sec II, General Order No. 16, Hq 83d Inf Div, dated 30 January 1945, is in error. Corrected to read: Sgt. Alfred J. Lipin received the Silver Star per same General Order.

Commanding Officers during Period Covered by Report:

Bn Cndr	Lt. Col. Glenn Cole, Inf.
OO Hq Co	Capt. Francis H. Dobbins, FA
OO Rcn Co	Capt. Harry L. Harris, FA
OO Co A	Capt. Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf.
OO Co B	Capt. Edwin H. Stewart, FA
OO Co C	1st Lt. Anthony G. Covatta, AUS
OO Med Det	Capt. Domenico A. Savoia, M.C.



After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion for month of February 1945

3. Administration: (Cont'd)

CASUALTY, REPLACEMENT AND PRISONER OF WAR ANNEX

DAY	WIA	KIA	MIA	N.B.	P.W.	REPLACEMENTS
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	6
4	0	0	0	0	0	1 Off
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	16
7	0	0	0	3	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	3	0	0
10	0	0	0	1	0	1
11	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0	3
15	0	0	0	0	0	2
16	0	0	0	0	0	2
17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	0	0	2	0	0
20	0	0	0	3	0	0
21	0	0	0	1	0	4
22	0	0	0	1	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	8
26	0	0	0	0	0	1
27	0	0	0	1	0	0
28	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0	16	0	1 Off, 45 PW

During the month of February this organization drew Class I Supplies from the 82d Airborne Division through the 15th of February at which time it became detached from the 82d Airborne Division and reverted to III Corps control and drew all Class I supplies from Railhead #30. On the 21st of February this organization was detached from III Corps and attached to VII Corps, 99th Division at which time it started drawing Class I supplies from the 99th Infantry Division.

Class II, III & IV supplies were drawn from Army depots during the entire period. All controlled and major items of Ordnance equipment were drawn through XVIII & VII Corps on allocations.

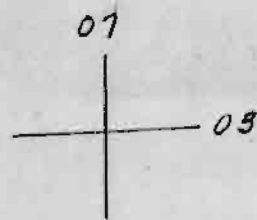
Six (6) Car, armored, utility, M20 and 6 Carriage, motor 90mm, M36 were drawn on First Army allocations.

This organization turned in 3 1/2 ton, 6X6, cargo trucks and 1 Car, armored utility, M20 to the 26th Ordnance Co.


Basic loads of Class I, III & V supplies were maintained at all times.



Roads were very bad due to weather conditions.

4,6,8,12  1056 VG




 189


 106 FEST STAMM


1  $\frac{1}{3}$   189 AT  189 REPL


1  $\frac{1}{3}$   991

1  $\frac{1}{4}$   314 SICH


89  89 VG


 3 MORTAR


3  $\frac{1}{4}$   3

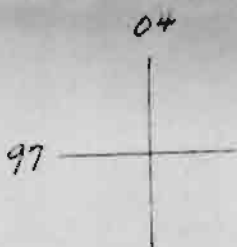
 1075 SICH


Overlay Showing Enemy Situation  
From 01000, Feb 1945 to 052400 Feb 1945  
Map: GSGS 4414 1/25,000  
Sheets No. 5504 & 5604  
Hqs 629th TD Bn  
011000 March 1945

33  9 Pz  
(Eln)

8  $\frac{1}{4}$  345  II

 88 STAMM



3  9 AT

49