

**HEADQUARTERS  
629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
ARMED FORCES, U.S.A. ARMY**

**3 APRIL 1945**

**SUBJECT: After Action Report.**

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

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

*Glen Cole*  
**GLEN COLE  
Lie. Col., Inf (R)  
Commanding**

**Incl'd:**

- 1 - Resume of Operations for Month of March 1945  
1 - After Action Report for Month of March 1945  
1 - Battalion Journal for Month of March 1945**

*101-69-2*  
**6427**

*[Signature]*  
**[Redacted]**

**34  
191**

After Action Report, 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for month of March 1945

CHARS OF OPERATIONS:

The battalion was attached to the 99th Infantry Division for the entire period.

Each firing company with a reconnaissance platoon was attached to each of the three regiments for operations. These units crossed the Rhine River with the respective regiments on 11 March 1945. They provided active support to the regiments in securing and broadening the beachhead. In the rapid advance from the Rhine River towards Bielefeld, Germany, infantry troops were mounted on the destroyers for movement to the respective objectives.

During the period the conversion to the P-16, 90mm gun, was completed. One M6 fell through the Remagen railroad bridge on the Rhine as it was crossing.

After action Report, 63rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for month of March 1945

1 to 6 March period 1 to 6 March 1945.

a. Units in Contact

Elements of the 9th Panzer Division, 36th and 38th Volk's Grenadier Divisions and 5th, 8th and 17th Infantry Divisions were on our front. The enemy front lines on March 1st extended from F 135716 south east to Heubach, Germany, F 143718 south to Weinsberg, Germany F 142420 southwest to F 112600 southwest of Ellhofen and northeast to F 145600. On March 4th, two regiments of 11th Panzer Lehr Division were contacted, as also various miscellaneous units such as 11th Paratroop "I" Battalion, 54th Training Battalion, 197th Volk's Destroyer Battalion and 157th General Headquarters Tank Destroyer Battalion. At the end of our day advances, the enemy front lines were along the east bank of the Main River extending from the Urft River junction, F 145719 south to F 145430.

There was no contact with the enemy from 7 to 11 March 1945. Enemy forces opposing us for the period 11 to 21 March 1945 consisted of elements of 3d, 5th and 9th Panzer Divisions, 3rd AT Battalion, 28th Volk's Grenadier Division and 26th Volk's Grenadier Division, 27th Volk's Grenadier Division, 21st团 of 106th AT Battalion and 36th AT Battalion of 38th Volk's Grenadier Division plus numerous miscellaneous units and combat groups. On the 11th of March the front lines were north to south at F 702110, southwest to F 712117, southwest to F 715100, to F 749316. On the 21st of March the enemy front lines ran north to south F 749316, south along the Wied River to F 776130, southwest to F 763008 to F 736074.

From 13th to 21st March 1945 no major units were in contact.

b. Reserves

From 1 to 6 March 1945 local constituents of General Headquarters Companies or Alert units were at the enemy's disposal, although some uncommitted elements of 130th Panzer Lehr Division were available for employment on our front. The enemy showed definite lack of fresh and rested combat troops. The aforementioned reserves were capable of effecting our mission only to the extent of slowing our advances towards the Rhine.

From 11 to 22 March 1945 very few reserves were available to the enemy. Of these the 2d battalion of the 106th Panzer Brigade was in immediate reserve on the 11th and 12th of March. From the 17th to the 22d of March the 27th and 28th Volk's Grenadier Divisions were regrouping on the east side of the Wied River.

No reserves whatsoever were taken to assist in our sector for period 23 to 31 March 1945.

c. Enemy Activities

For the period 1 to 6 March the enemy took advantage of towns and high terrain features by using them as strong points. The mortar and artillery fire during our advance was generally light and sporadic. If fire from tanks or AT weapons was negligible, small arms and MG fire was the enemy's most unenclosed potential means of defense. During the period 11 to 22 March the enemy harassed with mortar and artillery fire on our front line troops and laid down interdictory fire on the roads leading to our positions. Small arms, MG and automatic weapons fire was employed from points of vantage. Laying of mines increased and the road leading to Remagen was heavily booby trapped. The enemy seemed to

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

**14 JUNE (continued)**

#### **9. Acetyl Acetoxylase ( $\text{nm}^{-1}$ )**

digging in and improving his positions on the east bank of the ~~old~~ River. Hardly any resistance was met by our troops during the period from 29 to 31 March 1945. The enemy continued to withdraw hastily and in a disorderly fashion along the entire front.

#### • What would you do?

From 1 to 6 March 1945 the combined estimated strength of all units opposing us was approximately the equivalent of two divisions. The enemy knew very little of our situation. The morale of his regular combat units was fair whereas the rear echelon troops that were employed as front line infantry bore an indifferent and reluctant attitude towards their new role. Their morale was extremely poor.

From the period 11 to 31 March there was no estimate on enemy strength. The enemy's morale was fair to poor.

6. DATA FROM 10 COUNTRIES: PERIOD 1 TO 6 YEARS 1951

(1) to defend his positions again, towns and prominent terrain features as strong points. This he attempted to the best of his ability.

(d) To launch minor limited objective counterattacks with tanks & infantry before we had fully consolidated our newly won positions. This failed due to the lack of knowledge concerning our front line elements and weaknesses. Most of the enemy's counterattacks were broken up by our well placed antitank fire and some even disorganized before they had gotten under way.

(3) To withdraw to the east bank of the river leaving a hunting force of inferior troops to delay our advance to the river until we can or forced across to the river's eastern bank. This I am the army exercised successfully.

(4) to employ in as great a force as we could muster, air and anti-aircraft batteries in an attempt to disrupt our supply or communication routes, hence slowing us down, reducing the pressure on the attacking flanks and giving him time to form somewhat of a defense line before the river. This was not successful due to the excellent air support afforded our ground forces by our combat air fighter planes.

## Sampled Search Results

(1) To defend from tanks and commando's. We did this with the 40 strong points. It is to be admitted that our forces were successful in deterring all the commandos.

(2) To return to the old line and form a defense line which we can fire at.

(3) To counteract, in taxation or buying power, the social factor present before a certain time could be consideration.

(4) To hold out the bridge over the River by building a temporary bridge or cutting off our supplies and isolating our troops in the bridge head town, he purpose was attained in view of the arrival of the 4th corps.

~~any state of confusion or disorder - it will not be liable~~

After Action Report, 623rd Tank Destroyer Battalion for Month of March 1945

d. MOVEMENTS

a. During the period 1 March 1945 to 28 March 1945 front lines moved along the southern bank of the Rhine River to the Rhine River from F200000 to F365115. During the period 11 to 31 March 1945 the front lines north and south along the Rhine River in vicinity of Remagen (7645179), then along the Ried River, then to vicinity of Giessen (0660240) and north to vicinity Gießen (6865045).

b. Location of Battalion w's as follows: 1 March 1945—Wadgassen (A97424), 2 to 4 March 1945—Geisenhof (F107996), 5 March 1945—Merten (F210733), 6 to 9 March 1945—Huberath (F276022), 10 to 11 March 1945—Arens (F543236), 12 March to 13 March 1945—Linz (F673184), 14 to 25 March 1945—Kirchberg (776110), 26 March 1945—Tressenhausen (F041157), 27 March 1945—Rindesweiler (0089105), 28 March 1945—Beranhausen (0357183), 29 to 31 March 1945—Groß-Gleiberg (0635245).

c. The battalion was attached to the 99th Infantry Division for the entire period.

d. During this period the unit received the M-36 tank destroyers to replace the K-10 tank destroyers. This equipment was received during the period the unit was in action from west of the Aar River to east of the Rhine River. The firing companies supported the infantry regiments of the 99th Inf Div with direct fire support in an assault, an role as well as furnishing antitank protection for the division. Co. A was attached to the 99th Inf Regt, Co B to the 394th Inf Batt and C to the 395th Inf Batt. Reconnaissance Company was operative for the first part with one platoon attached to each firing company. Very little armor was contacted during the period.

e. Companies A, B and C with their attached recon platoons, moved across the Rhine River, in company, with the regiments to which they were attached on 11 March 1945. These units were active with elements of the 99th Inf Div in securing the breaching the Bergen beach head. In the advance to the Ried River each battalion provided support to the respective battalions in the attacks on all objectives.

f. After the Ried River was crossed the advance was rapid. In order to speed the clearing of all towns the suspected strong points, infantry troops were dropped on the destroyers and the tanks for rapid movement to those places. This method of advancing aided the infantry with their transportation problems under this particular situation.

g. Combat efficiency—excellent.

h. During the month of March 1945 the following known damage was inflicted on the enemy: 111 personnel killed, 4 AF guns destroyed, 4 machine gun nests disabled, 12 strong points neutralized, 5 M IV tanks, 2 M V tanks and 1 M VI tank destroyed, 4 - AF guns knocked out, 2 barges sunk, 5 aircraft shot down, 1 barracks building destroyed, 1000 m of wire and 2 CP vehicles destroyed. Because of the fast moving situation it was often impossible to check all areas taken under fire for damage inflicted.

Alt r. and 1st Lt. Art., 617th Tank Destroyer Battalion For month of March 1945

• Personnel

• All re-induction process through 77th Infantry Division during period.

• Authorized strengths and status at beginning and end of periods

Alt. No.	Month	Strength Number of days of month	Net Increase	Net Decrease
1	Mar	100	0	0
2	Mar	100	0	0
3	Mar	100	0	0
4	Mar	100	0	0
5	Mar	100	0	0
6	Mar	100	0	0
7	Mar	100	0	0
8	Mar	100	0	0
9	Mar	100	0	0
10	Mar	100	0	0
11	Mar	100	0	0
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298				

After Action Report, 6.57m Tank Destroyer Battalion for month of March 1945

### 3e Administration (Cont'd.)

Engineering Officer's senior warrant Certified by Lieutenant

SD Junc	1st. Col. Glenn Cole, Inf.
SD HQ Co	Capt. Francis M. Dickinson, FA
SD Rec Co	Capt Harry L. Morris, FA
SD Co A	Capt Charles Mc Givernan, Inf.
SD Co B	Capt Edwin H. Stewart, FA
SD Co C	Capt Anthony G. Gervais, Inf.
SD Med Det	Capt Benjamin A. Austin, Med. C.

## CASUALTY, RECLAMATION AND RELEASE OF ANIMALS

**After Action Report, Army Tank Battalion - Operations for month of March 1945**

**2. Administration (continued)**

During the month of March this organization drew all Class I supplies from the 99th Infantry Division.

Class II and III supplies were drawn from Army depots through the 12th of March. During the remainder of the period these supplies were drawn from the 99th Infantry Division. Class III and V supplies were drawn from Army depots.

All controlled items of Ordnance equipment were drawn on III Corps allocations.

Thirty (30) - Carriage, 75mm gun, K36 were drawn on First Army Allocations to replace 30 Carriages, Motor, M103 and Seven (7) - Truck, 1 ton, 4 x 4, were drawn on First Army allocations to partly fill shortages due to change in T/R. One - Carriage motor, 90mm gun, K36 was also drawn to replace a battle loss. (One K36 fell through floor of wooden railroad bridge as it was crossing.)

Basis loads of Class I, III and V supplies were maintained at all times. Road conditions were fair, many roads being narrow and suitable on one-way roads.