

HEADQUARTERS SOUTH PAK DESTRUCTOR BATTALION  
APO 464, United States Army

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

FEBRUARY 1945

The month opened with the Battalion attached to 34th Div and operationally to 752 Tank Bn in the Idice River sector, where it has been since late October.

1 Feb Before darkness last night B-3-4, at 962312 occupied position and laid on Parrocchia di Vignale. At 0300 today he fired 41 rounds into church in support of a raid to 962316. Though no fire came from the church, raid was unsuccessful.

2 Feb II Corps held a conference of TD and Tank Bn comdrs to discuss relief. It appears this Bn must accomplish maintenance by relief within Bn. A revised mine stocking plan was completed per instructions 34th Div. This is second time these dumps have been established. A mail shoot scheduled for 1400 by Div O.I.#9 cancelled due to poor visibility.

B continued usual 30 rounds nightly harassing indirect.

Co moved into squadron reserve, 91st Sqn Sqds, at 710190, leaving transportation at old location, 791174.

3 Feb 16 and enemy patrol infiltrated lines near hill 532 and was unlocated for several hours. One member killed was carrying AT rocket launcher.

4 Feb G-2 occupied positions near G. Gallasso (9431) for coming operation.

5 Feb

1534a Started 15 minute preparation and 20 minute harassing in support of an operation by 1st Lt 168 and 1st Bn 133 to take Orto Pissano features and Hill 363 respectively. Preparation consisted of knocking down most of the visible occupied houses. An intricate fire plan was made using guns of all companies and a target numbering system. Tanks and TDs were coordinated. Before daylight a 168 platoon occupied Colombara without incident. This proved to be deepest penetration of the operation. Though enemy smoke limited visibility, most missions were fired. Infantry was stopped almost immediately after jump off by mines, mortar and Bn fire, the latter chiefly from the Pissano rocks and slopes of 363 behind Orto. Artillery reaction was light, though tank at Venta and G at Sastibacchie drew light scattered direct fire. Scattered artillery vicinity S di Gusi killed a TD driver of G-2.

1534a Harassing continued indefinitely.

1615a Preparation repeated.

1645a Preparation repeated.

1734a 168 occupying Pissano house but not the rocks; 133 near but not in Orto. After dark 133 withdrew to Cellina. Bn fired a total of 355 rounds direct.

Permission, initially denied, was granted by 35th Div to run engines of TDs at La Costa 777330.

All started.

- 6 Feb 168 attempted to take rocks at 1400 without success. Bn fired 51 rounds direct.
- 7 Feb A & B fired 44 rounds on targets near Pissano rocks. 3 deserters came in as result of our fire on Parrochia di Vignale.
- 8 Feb A fired 57 rounds into bunkers located during last operation.
- 9 Feb B fired 8 rounds at a suspected SP position 959341. No results seen.
- 10 Feb NTR
- 11 Feb A-3 fired 26 rounds at dugouts, observed hits.
- 12 Feb A-2 fired 91 rounds at various houses, observing hits on all of them. 91st Inf Div assumed command of sector at 130700A.
- 13 Feb The Bn received ammunition allocation for period 121800A to 201800A—700.76mm, 20 smoke. "B" Co fired 13 rounds H.E. on enemy OP at 964337 and personnel at 956337. Hits were observed on OP. Status of vehicle remains same—all armored vehicles in class A. "B" Co continued harassing fire.
- 14 Feb A Co fired 19 rounds HE at Gargomano (913333). Harassing fire from enemy is still slight, with A Co reporting 5 rounds in their OP area. Bronze Star Medal was awarded to Sgt. Charles B. Stefanick, Sgt. Chester R. Goodwin, and Tech 3 Stephen Bincarowsky, Co B.
- 15 Feb C Co's T 2 hit mine in stream crossing at 932308. There were no injuries. 100 hour check of vehicles was started by sending one vehicle at a time to the rear.
- 16 Feb "A" Co fired 23 rds direct fire at enemy held house at 924338. 21 hits were observed. Bn OPs continue to report slight enemy activity.
- 17 Feb 1st Plat B Co was alerted and moved to 85th Div sector on the right, arriving at noon on the 18th.  
 "D" Co of 752 Tank Bn also moved to that area.  
 "A" Co fired 39 rds H.E. & A.P.C. on SP behind building at 951340. Hits were scored on building.  
 "B" Co fired 24 rds HE direct fire on suspected MG position via building at 964327.  
 "B" Co was released from mission of harassing when their 1st platoon moved to 85th Div sector.  
 Enemy fire continues to be slight. A Co reports 10 rds at 923317 at 1545A. 3 air bursts over Bn OP at 1800. No damage or casualties.
- 18 Feb 1st Plat B Co closed in positions via San Clemente 994287 at 1800. Mission is road block in anti tank role. Platoon is attached to Co D, 752 Tank Bn.
- 19 Feb A-2 fired 37 rds HE and 6 rds APU direct fire on buildings in Zula (884332). 30 hits were observed. A-3 fired 20 rds H.E. direct fire on dugout at 913333 — all hits.

- 20 Feb The Bn received an ammunition allocation of 887.76mm and 60 smoke for period 201800 to 021800 March. "A" Co fired 58 rds HE and 9 APC at a suspected SP. (house destroyed and fire started 940328), M.G. in window of house at 94153290 (hits in window, fire started), and house at 941332 (direct hits, fire started, and one P.W. surrendered at first opportunity)
- 21 Feb "A" Co fired 66 rds HE direct fire at enemy occupied house 939328 in effort to bring forth another P.W., which was the result.
- 22 Feb A Co continued direct fire missions by firing on house at 942332 -- 46 rds HE and 9 rds APC. House was partially destroyed. Maintenance and 100 hour check of M 18's continues.
- 23 Feb A Co fired 87 HE and 18 APC on Enemy OP (890340), strong point (909336), and on occupied house (920335). Destroyed dugout and set ammunition dump on fire. Crews of M 18's on Mt. Grande reduced to 2 each vehicle, due to exposed and dangerous position.
- 24 Feb "A" Co fired 117 rds HE and 10 APC at Div OP of German 65th and 305th Div (913334), machine gun (943329 & 946333), and dugouts (913333). Hits observed on all targets.
- 25 Feb "B" Co fired 12 rds HE and 20 rds APC direct fire at Enemy OP (964337) and HQ (955336). Battalion continued in defense mission and firing missions in support of the infantry.
- 26 Feb At daylight all guns were alerted to fire counter fire on any M's or MG's firing on our infantry in its attempt to seize spur at 933328. "A" Co fired 74 rounds HE at Enemy OP and HQ at 936335 in support of this operation. C Co fired 52 rds HE at Enemy OP (936332). Building was partially destroyed.
- 27 Feb Clearance was finally granted for moving A Co 1st Platoon from vic 966315 to vic 905221, and they moved during daylight hours to our battalion rear for maintenance. Reconnaissance Co moved into position in the line as infantry (694243 to 710208). A Co fired 99 rds HE direct fire at enemy dugouts, HQ's and OP at 951334 and 842336. Hits were scored on all targets. C Co fired 35 HE and 8 APC direct fire at house (936332).
- 28 Feb The month closed with B and C companies continuing the operation of OP's at 963312 and 945321. The Bn also continues its maintenance work, 100 hour check of vehicle, and resting of personnel. "B" Co fired 19 rds HE and 7 rds APC direct fire at known SP positions vic 959341, 962328, and 951336. Reconnaissance Company continues to act as infantry, attached 91st Cavalry Recon Squadron. B Co has 1st platoon and 1 provisional platoon attached to 85th Div. Battalion (-) is attached to 91st Div and further attached, operations only, to 732d Tank Bn.

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 HARRY M. CARNUTHERS,  
 Major, Infantry,  
 Executive Officer.

Appendix "A": As listed.  
 Appendix "B": As listed.

Appendix "A":

S-3 Journal  
S-3 Reports (this Hq)  
G-2 Reports 34th Div  
G-2 Reports 85th Div  
G-2 Reports 91st Div  
G-3 Reports 34th Div  
G-3 Reports 85th Div  
G-3 Reports 91st Div  
Operational Instructions 34th Div  
Operational Instructions 85th Div  
Misc. Operational Data  
Operation "Pissano" 34th Div

Appendix "B":

S-1 Journal  
Casualty Report  
Officers Roster