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HEADQUARTERS, 704TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 403, US Army  
6 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.  
(thru channels)

Under the provisions of Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by Change Number 3, the following After Action Report for this command is submitted:

On 1 March 1945, the Bn minus "C" Company was supporting the 94th Infantry Division's attack to limited objectives east of the Saar River. The Bn CP was located at Saarburt, Germany. "A" Co's CP was at Beurig, Germany with the 1st and 2nd and 3rd platoons in that general vicinity and "B" Co was in the vicinity of Serrig, Germany. "C" Co was with the Fourth Armored Division participating in that Division's drive to the Kyll River near Bitburg, Germany.

On 3 March 1945, the Bn minus "C" Co was relieved from attachment to the 94th Infantry Division and XX Corps and was attached to the Fourth Armored Division and XII Corps, effective 040800 March 1945. The Bn minus "C" Company prepared to move to the vicinity of Rittersdorf, Germany 040800 March 1945 and "A" and "B" Companies moved to an assembly area on the West side of the Saar River in the vicinity of Kirf, Germany.

On 4 March 1945, the Bn less "C" Co marched from vicinity Saarburt, Germany at 0800 to rejoin the Fourth Armored Division. The Bn less "B" and "C" Companies closed in the vicinity of Rittersdorf, Germany at 1500 attached to CCR. "B" Co closed in the vicinity of Bitburg, Germany at 1500 and was attached to CCA. "C" Co was attached to CCB and the 2nd platoon of "A" Co was attached to the 25th Cavalry.

On 5 March 1945, the Bn (-) remained in the vicinity of Rittersdorf, Germany and was placed on a 1½ hour alert to move with CCR on the Fourth Armored Division's attack to the Rhine River. Reconnaissance Company was assigned the mission of providing flank guard and connecting file between CCA and CCR.

On 6 March 1945, Recon Co moved to the vicinity of Badem, Germany maintaining contact with the rear elements of CCA. "B" and "C" Companies moved with the attack of the combat commands to which they were attached.

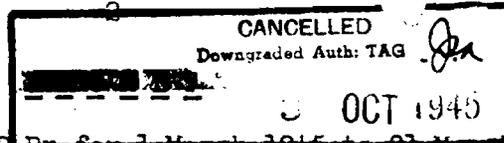
On 7 March 1945, the Bn (- "B" and "C" Companies) left Rittersdorf at 0730 and closed at Darsheld, Germany at 1800.

On 8 March 1945, the Bn (-) was given the mission of securing the main supply route circling the area from Alflen, Germany to Bitchel, Germany to the SE. D/35th Tank Battalion was attached to the Bn for this mission. The Bn (-) closed in Alflen at 1100 and the terrain was reconnoitered and defensive positions set up.

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*[Handwritten signatures and scribbles]*



After Action Report, Hq 704th TD Bn for 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945, (Cont'd)

On 9 March 1945, D/35th Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment to the Bn. The Bn (-) continued on its mission until 10 March 1945 when it was relieved by elements of the 5th Infantry Division. On 10 March 1945, the Bn (-) began march by infiltration at 1430 closing at Ochtendung, Germany at 1900.

On 11 March 1945, Rcn Co was given the mission of patrolling the sector along the Rhine River between Kettig, Karlich and Mulheim. "B" Co remained in its attachment to CCA and "C" Co in its attachment to CCB.

On 14 March 1945, the Bn (-) moved at 1300 to Dungenheim, Germany closing at 1810.

On 15 March 1945, one Rcn Platoon was given the mission of maintaining contact with the rear elements of CCB. The 3rd platoon of "A" Co moved at 1720 to join a force escorting Division Forward Headquarters and "A" Co's 2nd platoon was attached to the 25th Cavalry.

On 16 March 1945, the Bn (-) began march at 0615, crossed the Moselle River and closed in the vicinity of Simmern at 1700. The Bn (-) outposted the town to the west and southwest and sent patrols to the west toward Kirchberg and Ellern through Argenthal.

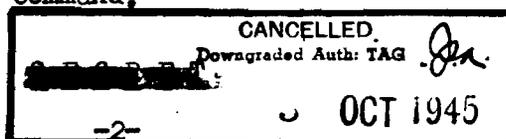
On 17 March 1945, the Bn (-) marching with the Reserve Command, left Simmern at 1230 and closed at Weinsheim, Germany at 1630. "A" Co (-) was taken out of march column and went into position in the vicinity of Winterburg to aid in stopping an enemy counterattack.

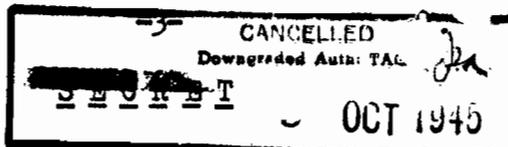
On 18 March 1945, "A" Co (-) rejoined the Bn at Weinsheim, moving from Winterburg at 1900 and closing at 2030.

On 19 March 1945, the Bn (-) "A", "B", "C" and Rcn Company's was attached to Division Forward Headquarters and given the mission of protecting Division Communication Lines. One platoon of "A" Co., 704th TD Bn., one platoon "B" Co., 35th Tank Battalion and one platoon "B" Co., 51st Armored Infantry Battalion was attached to the Bn for this mission. The Bn (-) moved from Weinsheim closing at Furfeld, Germany at 1120. The Bn (-) outposted the town of Frei Laubersheim, Germany. "A" Co (-) and Rcn Company remained with CCR, "B" Co with CCA and "C" Co with CCB.

On 23 March 1945, the Bn (-), "A" and Rcn Companies were at Furfeld, Germany "B" Co was at Zotzenheim, Germany and "C" Co at Eich, Germany.

1st Lt King was relieved from command of Hq Co and assumed duties of Executive Officer. 1st Lt Taake was relieved from command of "B" Co and transferred to Hq Co, assuming command, 1st Lt Briggs was relieved from duties in "A" Co and transferred to "B" Co, assuming command.





After Action Report for 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945, Hq 704th TD Bn., (Cont'd)

On 24 March 1945, the battalion (-) began march at 1200 and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of M 371384 at 1400. The march was resumed at 2100 and the Rhine River crossed about 2300 by means of a Pontoon Bridge at Nierstein, Germany. The battalion (-) closed in bivouac near Leeheim, Germany at 2400 and set up defenses in that vicinity.

On 25 March 1945, the Battalion (-) with attachments consisting of one platoon "A" Company, 704th TD Bn., one platoon 37th Tank Battalion and one platoon 10th Armored Infantry Battalion moved from Leeheim at 1630 and closed at Rossdorf, Germany at 1830. The town was outposted and a security patrol established.

On 26 March 1945, "C" Company (attached to CCB) was working with "C" Troop 25th Cavalry in bivouac vicinity Gr Ostheim with mission of outposting roads to North and East. At 0130 26 March 1945, a number of enemy SP guns and tanks (estimated at 13) came up the road from the South on the main axis of advance following a friendly convoy. Just astride "C" Company's position, the lead SP fired on and set afire a medium tank it had followed up to this point. In the ensuing action, two M-18's, two 1½ ton trucks and one ¼ ton truck were destroyed. Three enemy SP's were destroyed and 10 enemy killed.

2nd Lt Dolan was relieved from assignment as Liaison Officer and announced Information and Education Officer and Assistant S - 3. 2nd Lt Kline relieved from assignment as Information and Education Officer and announced Investigation Officer.

On 27 March 1945, the battalion (-) moved from Rossdorf at 0915 and closed at Jugesheim, Germany at 1130.

On 28 March 1945, the battalion (-) marched at 1545 closing in Munzenberg, Germany at 2300 after crossing the Main River at Hanau.

On 30 March 1945, the battalion (-) left Munzenberg at 0900 closing at Herbstein, Germany at 1430.

On 31 March 1945, the battalion (-) left Herbstein at 1000, closing in Hersfeld, Germany at 1820.

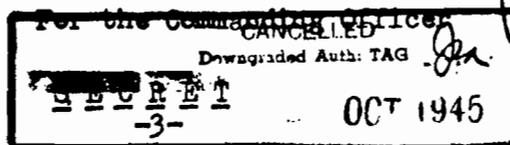
During the month of March 1945, nineteen (19) Bronze Stars were awarded to Officers and Enlisted Men of the Battalion.

During the month, six (6) Enlisted Men were killed, and nineteen (19) wounded, twenty-six (26) were sick and evacuated.

#### STRENGTH

OFFICERS: 32

WARRANT OFFICER: 1    EM: 565    TOTAL: 598



William L. Kline  
WILLIAM L. KLINE  
2nd Lt., FA (TD)  
Adjutant