

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

7 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Battalion History.
Period from 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

1. Original Unit.
 - a. 702d Tank Battalion (Medium).
 - b. Organized 1 March 1943.
 - c. Organized at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.
 - d. Authority for Organization: 320.2/52 (AF) (R)-GNGCT (1-2-43), and paragraph 1, General Orders Number 14, Headquarters Armored Force, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
 - e. Sources from which personnel was obtained: The Cadre for the Battalion came from the 8th Armored Division, Camp Campbell, Kentucky, and the Recruits came from the New Cumberland Reception Center, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.
2. Principal changes in organization resulted from changes in Tables of Organization and the activation of a light tank company on 19 October 1943. The designation of the Unit was changed from "702d Tank Battalion (Medium)" to "702d Tank Battalion".

3. Strength:

- a. Strength: 1 January 1945:
- b. Net increase to 31 January 1945:
- c. Net decrease to 31 January 1945:
- d. Strength: 31 January 1945:

Commissioned	Warrant	Enlisted
42	3	685
3	0	0
0	0	3
45	3	682

4. Stations of Unit:

- a. 1 Jan 45 thru 6 Jan 45: Vicinity of Lintgen, Luxembourg, P8425. (Map of Luxembourg, Sheet No. 4).
- 7 Jan 45 thru 22 Jan 45: Vicinity of Wichten, Luxembourg, P7535. (Map of Luxembourg, Sheet No. 4).
- 23 Jan 45 thru 27 Jan 45: Vicinity of Eschweiler, Luxembourg, P7156. (Map of Luxembourg, Sheet No. 4).
- 28 Jan 45 thru 31 Jan 45: Vicinity of Godbrange, Luxembourg, P9127. (Map of Luxembourg, Sheet No. 4).

5. The purpose of all marches was to accomplish the tactical mission of the Battalion in connection with military operations against the enemy. Specific instances concerning marches given in the summary of operations by Battalion S-3 Report attached.
6. Battalion engaged principally in Third United States Army drive towards Germany. The first week of this 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 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 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 the enemy was restricted. He used great quantities of Artillery

D
R
B
F
-
7
0
2
-
0
1
2

270632
110522

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

and Mortar and Nebelwerfer fire at all opportunities to restrict our movements.

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

7. As the month opened the 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 Grantzingen; 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.

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 Pws were captured without any losses to our troops.

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 2d 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. 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.

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

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 22d, and moved from there to Euderscheid on January 23rd.

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" cross 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 counter-attacks.

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 Fel. on 26 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 counter-attacks 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 319th Infantry. However, the platoon did not engage in any action while on this mission.

Task Force Talbot was formed by verbal order of the Commanding General, with the mission of reconnoitering in the zone east of Wiltz through Wilwerditz and Derschering to Kedingen, to prevent surprise by advancing infantry columns and

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

establish contact with the 6th Cavalry on the left flank.

Composition of the Task Force:

Tactical Headquarters	- 702d Tank Battalion
Company "D"	- 702d Tank Battalion
Mortar Platoon	- 702d Tank Battalion
Assault Gun Platoon	- 702d Tank Battalion
Reconnaissance Platoon	- 702d Tank Battalion
80th Reconnaissance Troop	- 80th Infantry Division
1 Platoon, Company "A"	- 610 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 Graffel and Jellingen. 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 25th of January, Hqs 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 Jellingen to protect the south flank of TF Summers.

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 SKWIS 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 Fintsche 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 2d Platoon of Company "A", advanced and captured Niedhausen. The 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry, with 3rd Platoon of Company "A" attached, captured Eockholtz-les-Hosingen at 0200, 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 the end of the month the Battalion was assembled for maintenance and reorganization.

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

8. The Commanding Officer in all engagements of the Battalion has been Lieutenant Colonel RALPH TALBOT III, Infantry. The Battalion was part of forces commanded by Lieutenant General GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.

9. Losses in Action:

OFFICERS:

None

KILLED

ENLISTED MEN:

Dumas, Raymond H, T/4, 31131530
Farrington, David O, S/Sgt, 32298751
Kinnare, Harry, S/Sgt, 39000311
Wardle, Ralph R, T/4, 32440436
Kelly, John W, Pvt, 34928466

WOUNDED AND INJURED

OFFICERS:

Gifford, Lowell F, 1st Lt, 01017622
Shaulis, Clark F, 2d Lt, 02000079

ENLISTED MEN:

McFeeley, John P, Sgt, 31024335
Martin, Frank E, Pvt, 38472897
Kositz, John J, Sgt, 33621545
Glofka, Edward J, Sgt, 33602213
Tallerico, Anthony M, Pfc, 32976961
Ferguson, Clair E, Sgt, 33436077
Polin, Martin, Sgt, 33595277
Wein, Charles T, Pvt, 15338890
Middle, Jr, Samuel D, Sgt, 33621506
Sudol, George J, 33602264
Porzuczek, Leo S, Cpl, 33409303
Coulter, Leland D, Pvt, 37511065
Wright, Lowell F, Pvt, 36898795
Thomas, Winford L, Pfc, 34986681
Cox, Jr, Fountain R, T/4, 34652659
Pisha, Richard J, T/5, 36676055
Davies, Sr, Edward M, Cpl, 34776809
Kelley, Lawrence P, Cpl, 31505213
Zedalis, John W, Cpl, 33602234
Madden, Edward J, Pfc, 36325745
Raditz, Martin A, Sgt, 33595232
Schweiger, Albert D, T/4, 33595264
Otto, Norman A, Cpl, 33621440
Buckallew, Virgil A, T/5, 37234391
Pletcher, Lloyd G, T/5, 33757155
Capri, Mario J, Pvt, 33905320
Jenny, John S, Cpl, 33621569

OFFICERS:

None

MISSING IN ACTION

ENLISTED MEN:

Harrington, Robert L, Pfc, 35811610
DiAnore, Alphonse, Pvt, 32927436
Coira, Jr, Henry L, T/4, 33602237
Rowden, William L, Pvt, 38567650
Byrum, Robert, Pvt, 36908334

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Thomas, Paul D.	Sgt	On 21 Jan 45, in the attack toward Burden, Luxembourg, aid men were having great difficulty in evacuating casualties due to heavy concentration of mortar and artillery fire in the area and because of deep snow immobilizing wheeled vehicles. Sgt Thomas in command of a tank supporting the infantry, observed three wounded men in a field exposed to the heavy enemy fire. With utter disregard for his own personal safety he moved his tank to where the injured lay and leaving the protection of the tank lifted the casualties onto the tank and returned to safety despite the intense fire concentrations.	Bronze Star
Kelley, Lawrence P.	Cpl	During an enemy counterattack early in the morning of 8 Jan 45, in Dahl, Luxembourg, Cpl Kelley, while in his tank as a gunner, observed that an explosion in a nearby tank had set fire to the tank and not only threatened to explode the ammunition store but offered an excellent target for the enemy. Disregarding the danger from the artillery and small arms fire accompanying the counterattack, Cpl Kelley left the protection of his tank and with a fire extinguisher succeeded in quenching the fire, thus saving a valuable tank and removing a tactical hazard.	Bronze Star (O.I.C.)
Dammarell, Howard T.	1st Lt	On the morning of 21 Jan 45, Lt Dammarell led his tank platoon from Burden, Luxembourg, through deep snows and fields uncleared of mines to a position from which to support an infantry battalion attacking Bourscheid, Luxembourg. Swiftly appraising the situation, Lt Dammarell deployed his tanks so that he was able, in spite of intense mortar and artillery fire, to surround the town. During this engagement he destroyed an enemy assault gun and tank, killing the crews and materially aided the infantry in liberating Bourscheid.	Bronze Star
Garguilo, Anthony L.	Pfc	On 27 Jan 45, at the height of a tank attack against Hosingen, Luxembourg, Pfc Garguilo a tank gunner observed that his platoon leader's tank had been hit and the platoon leader and gunner were abandoning the tank to take shelter in a nearby ditch. Leaving the protection of his tank despite the in-	Bronze Star

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Mendelssohn, T. L.	Sgt	tense fire in the area, Pfc Garguilo and a companion gave aid to the wounded gunner and carried him to a place of safety until the platoon leader returned with aid men. On 27 Jan 45 at the height of a tank attack against Hosingen, Luxembourg, Sgt Mendelssohn a tank commander observed that his platoon leader's tank had been hit and the platoon leader and gunner were abandoning the tank to take shelter in a nearby ditch. Leaving the protection of his tank despite the intense fire in the area, Sgt Mendelssohn and a companion gave aid to the wounded gunner and carried him to a place of safety until the platoon leader returned with aid men.	Bronze Star

b. Purple Hearts Awarded:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DATE OF WOUNDS</u>
Martin, Frank E.	Pvt	38472997	1 Jan 45
Crain, Robert D.	S/Sgt	39170956	1 Jan 45
Dragomits, Martin G.	Pfc	33621543	1 Jan 45
Bonner, Edward J.	Pfc	33595152	1 Jan 45
Kositz, John J.	SgtS	33621565	2 Jan 45
McPeckay, John P.	Sgt	31091335	1 Jan 45
Gloff, Edward J.	Sgt	33602218	4 Jan 45
Tallorico, Anthony H.	Pfc	32976961	4 Jan 45
Ferguson, Clair B.	Sgt	32436077	4 Jan 45
Nagle, Herbert B.	Tec 4	33542226	4 Jan 45
Pozzucsek, Leo S.	Cpl	33602303	7 Jan 45
Zedalis, John W.	Cpl	33602234	7 Jan 45
Sudol, George J.	Pfc	33602264	7 Jan 45
Polin, Horton	Sgt	33596897	5 Jan 45
Kelley, Lawrence P.	Cpl	31303213	8 Jan 45
Davies, Sr, Edward M.	Cpl	34776809	10 Jan 45
Yraguen, Bonifacio	Tec 5	39468146	13 Jan 45
Cox, Jr, Fountain B.	Tec 4	34652659	13 Jan 45
Picha, Richard J.	Tec 5	36676065	13 Jan 45
Van Pelt, Everett R.	Pvt	32348644	11 Jan 45
DePiano, John F.	Tec 5	33593936	11 Jan 45
Gusnerotti, Louis A.	Sgt	33757082	10 Jan 45
Thobaben, Jr, Henry J.	Sgt	32282205	10 Jan 45
Cooper, Norman W. S	Tec 5	33602282	20 Jan 45
Plotts, Glenn L.	Tec 4	33602145	20 Jan 45
Viens, Joseph A. H.	Tec 5	31240773	19 Jan 45
Capri, Mario J.	Pvt	33805320	18 Jan 45
Otto, Norman A.	Cpl	33621440	18 Jan 45
Velders, Ralph E.	Pvt	37641148	21 Jan 45

Battalion History - 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45 Cont'd.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DATE OF WOUNDS</u>
Harmon, Woodrow W.	Sgt	15056736	22 Jan 45
Madden, Edward J.	Pfc	36335845	21 Jan 45
Raditz, Martin	Sgt	33596261	21 Jan 45
Gifford, Lowell F.	1st Lt	01017622	25 Jan 45
Glofka, Edward J.	Sgt	33602218	22 Jan 45
Pletcher, Lloyd G.	Tec 5	33757196	27 Jan 45
Buckallew, Virgil A.	Tec 5	37234391	27 Jan 45
Still, Milton	2d Lt	01057270	27 Jan 45
Shaulis, Clark F.	2d Lt	02000079	25 Jan 45

11. Photographs of personnel, important scenes of events not available up to 31 January 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

Jarrett C. Mc Connico
 JARRETT C. MC CONNICO,
 1st Lt, 702d Tank Bn,
 Battalion Historian.