

HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 230 U. S. Army

319.1

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D.C.

THRU : Command Channels

In compliance with change 3, par 10, AR 345-105, the following summary of action against the enemy by the 774th Tank Battalion for the period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 (incl) is submitted:

I. ORIGINAL UNIT

a. No change.

II. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

a. The Battalion remained assigned to the First United States Army during the entire month. The following Battalion attachments were effective on dates indicated below:

CORPS

Relieved attachment VII Corps and attached XVIII (Airborne) Corps on 3rd February 1945. Relieved attachment to XVIII (Airborne) Corps and attached to III Corps on 12th February 1945.

DIVISIONS

Relieved attachment to 83 Inf Div and attached to 78th Inf Division on 3rd February 1945.

REGIMENT

Battalion (--Mortar Plat) attached 310 Inf Reg, 78th Inf Div on 4 February 1945. Relieved from attachment to 310 Inf Reg and reverted to Division reserve on 7 February 1945.

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b. Company A

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
311 Inf. Reg.	8 Feb 45	8 Feb 45
310 Inf. Reg.	8 Feb 45	11 Feb 45

c. Company B

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
2d Bn 310 Inf. Reg.	4 Feb 45	7 Feb 45
309 Inf. Reg.	7 Feb 45	8 Feb 45
T/F "A" 82/AB Div.	8 Feb 45	18 Feb 45

d. Company C

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
310 Inf. Reg.	8 Feb 45	11 Feb 45
311 Inf. Reg.	27 Feb 45	Remained atchd at end of month

e. Company D

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
2d Bn 310 Inf. Reg.	4 Feb 45	7 Feb 45
309 Inf. Reg.	7 Feb 45	14 Feb 45

(1) 1st Plat		
3rd Bn 309 Inf. Reg.	5 Feb 45	5 Feb 45

f. Mortar Platoon

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
78th Rcn Troop	4 Feb 45	7 Feb 45
Co B, 774 Tank Bn.	8 Feb 45	13 Feb 45
78th Rcn Troop	13 Feb 45	

g. Provisional Assault Gun Platoon

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
Co A, 774 Tank Bn.	5 Feb 45	8 Feb 45
78th Rcn Troop	13 Feb 45	

h. Assault Gun Platoon

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
Co B, 774 Tank Bn.	5 Feb 45	8 Feb 45
78th Rcn Troop	13 Feb 45	

III. STRENGTH

	Officers	WO	EM
a. Strength on 1 February 1945	47	3	592
b. Strength on 28 February 1945	45	3	665
c. Net increase or decrease	-2	0	73

IV. STATIONS

- a. APO 230, U.S. Army

V. MARCHES

- a. (See Narrative Report - Appendix No. 1)

VI. CAMPAIGNS

- a. Name - Campaign of Germany
- b. Duration - engaged in above campaign entire month.
- c. Purpose - (1) to capture Schwammensuel dam, vital key to defense positions in Roer river valley south of Duren, Germany, (2) To hold ground captured around dam.
- d. Authority ordering: Commanding Generals, First U.S. Army, XVIII Airborne Corps, III Corps and 78th Infantry Division.

VII. BATTLES

- a. See Narrative Report - Appendix

VIII. COMMANDING OFFICERS OF IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS

- a. Engagement: Battle of Schwammensuel Dam - Germany
  - (1) Bn Comdr: - Lt Col N. K. Markle, Jr.
  - (2) Co A - Capt Demetre Vignovich
  - (3) Co B - Capt Robert E. Cain
  - (4) Co C - Capt James W. Currier
  - (5) Co D - Capt Ray J. Tower, II
  - (6) Hq Co Mortar Plat - 1st Lt Carlton L. Fleet
  - (7) Hq Co Assault Gun Plat - 1st Lt Edward L. Ferebee
  - (8) Provisional Assault Plat - 2d Lt Robert D. Bahr

IX. LOSSES IN ACTION

- a. See Appendix No. 2

X. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

- a. See Inclosure No. 4

XI. PHOTOGRAPHS

- a. None

For the Commanding Officer:

6 Incls:

- Appendix No 1 - Narrative
- Appendix No 2 - Losses in Action
- Incl 1 - S-2 Journal
- Incl 2 - S-3 Journal
- Incl 3 - S-4 Journal
- Incl 4 - Awards

*Roger D. Andrews*  
ROGER D. ANDREWS  
1st Lt Infantry (Armed)  
Adjutant

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1 February 1945

Battalion in Division Reserve Battalion (-A and C companies) at Longueville, Belgium. Training and test firing of weapons. Company A at Oneux, Belgium. Company C at Ferriers, Belgium.

2 February 1945

No change. Continued schools, training and firing of weapons.

3 February 1945

Entire Battalion relieved attachment to 83 Infantry Division and attached to 73th Infantry Division. Moved 53 miles from vicinity of Longueville, Belgium, closing at Rotgen, Germany at 1500. Route: Tohogne, Bomal, Louveigne, Theux, Pepinster, Verviers, Dolhain, Eupen, Raeren, Rotgen. Weather cloudy, cold.

4 February 1945

Entire Battalion attached 310 Infantry Regiment, 73th Infantry Division. Made reconnaissance and preparations for attack of towns leading up to Schwammensuel Dam near Schmidt, Germany. Performed maintenance and camouflage of vehicles. Mortar platoon moved from Rotgen to 2½ miles Northwest Rollesbroich.

5 February 1945

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company moved from Rotgen to Lammersdorf, Germany, establishing a forward CP. Battalion Rear Headquarters remained at Rotgen. All elements completed coordination with Infantry for attack. Company A left Rotgen and moved to Lammersdorf closing at 2215. Provisional Assault Gun platoon moved with Company A. Company B moved from Rotgen and closed at Lammersdorf at 1515. Company B moved from Lammersdorf closing at Rollesbroich at 2030. Assault Gun Platoon moved with Company B. Company D moved to Rollesbroich closing at 1930.

6 February 1945

Battalion Reconnaissance platoon reconnoitered possibly mined road between Strauch-Gerstenshof, and Schmidt, encountered Artillery Fire and small arms fire. Company B left Rollesbroich at 1400 and advanced with Infantry, met anti-tank and mortar fire, platoons withdrew to assembly positions, Second platoon, Company B reached objective at 1745 with F Company, 2d Battalion, 310th Infantry Regiment. Assault Gun Platoon expended 7 rounds HE on Pillbox, received 6 rounds counter-battery fire. Company D: 1st platoon reached objective at 1745 with G Company, 2d Battalion, 310th Infantry Regiment. 2d Section reached objective at 1745 with F Company, 2d Battalion

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310th Infantry Regiment. Battalion Mortar platoon attached to 78th Reconnaissance Troop in position Northwest Rollesbroich. No mission fired. Combined action of B and D Companies destroyed 10 machine guns, 2 Pill-boxes, 1 Artillery Piece, reduced one Roadblock, killed 55 enemy personnel and assisted in capturing 110 Prisoner's of War.

The Battalion operation is to clear enemy from area Northeast and Southeast of Lammersdorf and secure Schwammenauel Dam on artificial lake no enemy armor reported. Area known to be defensively prepared and held by elements of 62,272 VGD and other miscellaneous battle groups.

7 February 1945

Battalion relieved attachment to 310 Infantry Regiment and reverted to 78th Division Reserve. Company A jumped off in direct support 310 Infantry Regiment to capture fortified objective. Reached objective at Schmidt with 8 tanks operational at 1730. One tank knocked out by 5 rounds of enemy direct fire. Company knocked out one anti-tank gun and assisted in taking 200 prisoners for the period.

Company B supported Infantry by direct fire on their advance through woods North of road to Kommerscheid. 13 Tanks closed in positions at Kommerscheid at 1815.

Company C moved from Rotgen to Lammersdorf closing at 1840.

Company D: 3d Platoon assisted elements of 309th Infantry flushing woods Northeast toward Kommerscheid.

8 February 1945

Company A continued mopping up and consolidating positions in Schmidt. Another platoon continued clearing enemy from town of Harscheidt. Company B remained in holding position at Kommerscheid. Company "C" CP moved from Lammersdorf and closed in new area at Simmerath at 1615. Company jumped off at 1530 for high ground East of Schmidt as objective. 1st and 2d platoons worked with 310th Infantry Regiment in clearing permanent enemy fortifications toward objective East of Schmidt. Cleared enemy machine gun and small arms resistance, but three tanks were knocked out by enemy high velocity weapons. Company knocked out one Mark V tank and forced another to withdraw. Company D CP moved from Rollesbroich to one mile West of Gerstenhof. 1st platoon assisted Infantry in flushing woods vicinity East of Gerstenhof. Mortar platoon moved to new position West of Schmidt at 1340. Laid guns on field of fire and awaited further orders. Received approximately 10 rounds per hour of 88mm fire.

9 February 1945

Company A CP at Witzerath. Company supporting 310th Infantry Regiment with mission to protect left flank of 9th Infantry Division and securing high ground around Harscheidt and East of Schmidt. 1st platoon reached ob-

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jective high ground 1 mile West of Blens, Germany, and the Roer river. Preparing defensive positions. 3rd platoon preparing defensive positions Northeast of Harscheidt and Schmidt. Company destroyed three 75-mm anti-tank guns, 2 mortars and approximately 15 machine guns. Company B attached to Task Force "A" 82 Airborne Division defending left flank of Infantry in attack with Airborne division towards Roer Northeast of Kommerscheid 1st, 2d and 3d platoons supporting Parashute regiments vicinity of Kommerscheid and North of Schmidt. Company C 1st platoon out of action since 8 February; 1 Tank by mines, 3 Tanks by direct fire. 2d and 3rd platoons advanced with 1st Battalion 310th Infantry Regiment to objective high ground 1 mile Northwest of Hasenfeld vicinity of Schwammenauel dam. Company destroyed previously 2 Mark V Tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 4 machine guns, 45 enemy personnel killed, 25 wounded and assisted in capture of 51 Prisoners of War. Company D: proceeded with Infantry to 3/4 mile North of Schwammenauel dam and took up defensive positions. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon in position at Schmidt.

10 February 1945

Company A CP moved from Witzerath closing at Gerstenhof at 1830. 1st platoon in defensive position 1 and 1/2 mile West of Blens. 2d and 3rd platoons moved to Gerstenhof closing at 1900. Company B: 1st and 2d platoons, no change. 3rd platoon moved from vicinity East of Schmidt to defensive positions vicinity of Hetsinger-Hock. Company C: CP moved from Sinnerath closing at Gerstenhof at 1530. 1st platoon out of action. One tank previously disabled by mines repaired and hit another mine vicinity of Schmidt. 2d and 3rd platoons in perimeter defense West of Schmidt. Platoons left defensive positions and closed in company area, vicinity of Gerstenhof at 2035. Company D: 1st and 2d platoons in position Northwest of Hasenfeld waiting further orders. Provisional and Assault Gun platoons in position West of Schmidt. Completed registrations, expended 11 rounds on house across Roer river. Received four rounds counter-battery fire. No casualties. Mortar platoon still attached to Company B, this Battalion, in position at Schmidt.

Friendly engineers successfully reached control towers of Schwammenauel dam, reporting no demolitions except that valves had been jammed in an open position.

11 February 1945

Company A: all platoons closed in company area vicinity of Gerstenhof performing maintenance and reorganization. Company B: in defensive positions vicinity of Kommerscheidt and Hetsinger-Hock. Company C: performing maintenance and reorganization vicinity of Gerstenhof. Previous destruction of enemy personnel and equipment not reported: reduced one roadblock, destroyed one pillbox, 1 CP, 11 machine gun nests, killed 156 enemy personnel, wounded 7, and assisted in capture of 46 Prisoners of War as of 081700 February 1945. Company D: performing maintenance and cleaning weapons in company area vicinity of Gerstenhof.

Provisional and Assault Gun platoons in position West of Schmidt. Expended 61 rounds on three fire missions of observed fire on pillboxes and dug in positions West of Ruhrberg. Effect of Fire—good. Mortar platoon, no change.

12 February 1945

Companies A, C, D, provisional and assault guns platoons and mortar platoon remained in place performing maintenance, reorganization and rehabilitation. Company B: CP moved from vicinity Gerstenhof closing at Kommerscheidt at 1940. All three platoons of Company "B" in defensive positions at Kommerscheidt and Hetsinger-Hock. 3rd platoon moved from Hetsinger-Hock and closed at Kommerscheidt at 1640.

13 February 1945

Companies A, C, and D: no change. Company B: installing duckbills on tanks. Provisional and Assault Gun platoons moved from West of Schmidt closing in new position vicinity Steckenborn. In position to lend support to forward elements. Mortar Platoon left positions West of Schmidt closing vicinity of Steckenborn at 1430.

14 February 1945

Companies A, B, C, and D performing normal training in positions. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon moved from Steckenborn to Hechelscheid. Expended 30 rounds of HE observed fire on registrations; targets: boats on Urft Strasse lake.

15 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change. Provisional and AG platoon expended 32 rounds observed fire on house across Roar river and enemy truck with good results. Mortar platoon in Hechelscheid. Registered with 12 rounds HE on enemy boats on shoreline of Roar river. Effect good. Battalion Rear CP joined forward CP at Lammersdorf, Germany.

16 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 25 rounds on machine gun nest and enemy infantry. Machine gun silenced and enemy infantry dispersed with some casualties. Received 6 rounds counter-battery fire. No casualties. Mortar platoon fired 4 rounds light HE on pillbox at which time white flag waved. Mission called off, darkness set in.

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17 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 47 rounds on following targets: enemy supply dump, destroyed; pillbox, several direct hits; cross-roads containing suspected motor movement, results unknown. Mortar platoon expended 116 rounds HE, 42 rounds light HE and 19 rounds WP on five enemy targets: pillbox, dump, road woods and machine gun nest. Result: 1 pillbox destroyed, 1 dump and 4 enemy personnel wounded. Silenced burp guns in area.

18 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change, normal training. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 42 rounds on enemy mortar positions. Enemy fire ceased and mortars knocked out. Fired interdiction fire on 10 minute intervals from 2000 to 2100 on enemy vehicular movement on road. Effect of fire—good. Mortar platoon expended 164 rounds observed and harassing fire on pillbox and enemy positions in woods. Effect good. Received 12 rounds counter-battery fire at OP.

19 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change, normal training. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 31 rounds on enemy targets. Effect—good. Destroyed 1 Ammunition carrier. Received 4 rounds counter-battery fire in area at 0630 and 0500 and 2 rounds at 0600. No casualties. Mortar platoon expended 125 rounds on observed targets and harassing fire. Results: direct hits on enemy pillbox, dispersed enemy positions in woods rendered unusable boats on river.

20 February 1945

Companies A, B, C, and D: no change. Normal training. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 15 rounds of interdiction fire on trail and fired at 15 minute intervals between 2000 and 2100 - 38 rounds HE and 11 rounds WP harassing fire were placed on suspected gun position at 1100 and 0730. Forward Observer reports gun silent for remainder of period. 3 rounds counter-battery fire received at 2230 and 2 rounds at 0530. Mortar platoon expended 60 rounds on following targets: silenced enemy burp gun, effect good on enemy trail dispersed activity around dugout with one direct hit, adjusted fire on enemy pillbox with good effect.

21 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D complying with training schedules and training with Infantry. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 42 rounds HE of interdiction fire at 20 minute intervals. Fired 32 rounds of observed fire on suspected mortar positions. Mortars silenced. Fired 46 rounds harassing fire at 2 green lights reported at 0130 lights extinguished. Mortar platoon expended 130 rounds HE heavy, 9 rounds HE light and 50 rounds WP of observed and harassing fire on pillbox, supply dump, and

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dugouts; effect good. Received 1 round counter-battery fire at 1400.

22 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D complying with training schedule and conducting conferences. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon fired 27 rounds of HE at call of Observation Post; results unknown. Received 16 rounds of counter-battery fire throughout the period. Mortar platoon expended 114 rounds of observed and harassing fire on pillbox during the afternoon and night. Effect good, with six direct hits. Dugout personnel dispersed,

23 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 29 rounds HE interdiction fire on river banks and trails in enemy territory. Fired 6 rounds HE harassing fire at enemy activity South west of river. Received 3 rounds counter-battery fire during the night. Mortar platoon expended 98 rounds of observed and harassing fire on the following targets: pillbox with 2 direct hits, supply dump with direct hits, enemy trail and dugouts. Effect good.

24 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D complying with training schedule in position. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 54 rounds interdiction fire on trails and woods and river bank in enemy territory. Received 2 rounds counter-battery fire during the day and air bursts at night. Mortar platoon expended 45 rounds of observed and harassing fire dispersing enemy personnel and silencing burp guns.

25 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D conducting normal training and holding conferences with Infantry on tactics. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 92 rounds of interdiction fire on a trail and enemy positions in woods South of Rurstausee lake. Enemy air activity during the night. Mortar platoon expended 24 rounds harassing fire on enemy pillbox and wood vicinity of Ruhrberg. Results unknown

26 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D complying with training schedule with Infantry. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 98 rounds of interdiction fire for protection of a patrol mission and on call from observation post. Effect of fire--good. Received 12 rounds counter-battery fire in area. No casualties. Mortar platoon in position at Hechelscheid expended 45 rounds HE harassing fire on enemy pillbox and positions in woods across Roer river. Results of fire unknown.

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27 February 1945

Companies A, B, C and D: no change; normal training emphasizing coordination with Infantry. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon expended 42 rounds HE observed fire on light enemy artillery positions East of Rohrberg. Enemy guns silenced, activity dispersed. Patrol reported enemy personnel wounded being evacuated. Expended 102 rounds HE interdiction fire on following targets across Roer River from Rohrberg: road, enemy listening post, pillbox and suspected mortar positions. Results could not be determined. Received 35 rounds counter-battery fire in area during period. No casualties. Mortar platoon expended 9 rounds HE harassing fire on pillbox and dugouts North of Rohrberg, East of Roer river. Effect unknown. Received 14 rounds counter-battery fire during afternoon and evening; air bursts throughout the night.

28 February 1945

Battalion (- Co C) in Division Reserve at Lammersdorf, Germany. Conducted school on enemy booby traps and time-delay igniter. Company A: CP at Gerstenhof preparing for movement. Training with Infantry in afternoon. Company B: in Komerscheidt, Germany, training and preparing for movement. Company C: attached 311 Infantry Regiment effective 272130. Left Gerstenhof at 0530. CP moved to one mile East of Harscheidt. First, second and third platoons crossed Roer river at Nediggen and advanced with Infantry South along the woods adjacent to Roer river to vicinity of Abenden. Mission to clear bridgehead for division. Company D: Conducted normal training and prepared for immediate movement. Provisional and Assault Gun platoon: in position near Steckenborn, expended 110 rounds interdiction fire on enemy targets across Roer river as follows: dugouts, gun positions, mortar positions, supply point and pillbox. Results could not be determined due to limited visibility. Received approximately 30 rounds counter-battery fire in area. Mortar platoon in position at Hechelscheid. Nothing to report.

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