AFTER ACTION REPORT
748 TANK BATTALION

MARCH & MAY 1945

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HEADQUARTERS 748TH TANK BATTALION
A.F.O. 403, U.S. Army

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.


1. In accordance with AR 345-105, the following report is submitted covering the operations of the 748th Tank Battalion in support of the 69th Infantry Division and the 65th Infantry Division from 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945:

2. Chronological history of events:

a. 1 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) attached to 68th Inf. Div. in Reserve at Springer, Germany.
   - Company "B" (17 DD's, 7 CDL's) departed Schönshin, Germany 0700A, arrived Springer, Germany 1730A. Crossed Rhine River at St. Goar.
   - Company "C" CDL Platoon illuminated bridgesite at St. Goar, Germany.
   - Company "A" CDL Platoon illuminated bridgesite at Bad Gailing, Germany.
   - Company "D" CDL Platoon illuminated bridgesite at Mainz, Germany.

b. 2 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) continued maintenance in Springer, Germany.
   - Company "C", "A", and "D" CDL Platoons continued to illuminate respective bridgesites.

c. 3 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) departed Springer, Germany 1650E enroute to assembly area via Almershausen (03053). Enroute at close of period.
   - Company "C", "A", and "D" CDL Platoons continued to provide illumination at Rhine River.

d. 4 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) closed into Almershausen at 0700E.
   - Distance traveled 120 miles. Began maintenance program. Still in 69th Division reserve.
   - CDL Platoons continued with illumination of Rhine bridges.

e. 5-6 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) continued maintenance of equipment.
   - On 6 April, Bn. was relieved from attachment to 69th Division and attached to 65th Infantry Div. More placed in Div. Reserve and remained in Almershausen. Received orders to convert DD tanks to fighter tanks and to reorganize three medium companies and one light company.
   - CDL Platoons continued with illumination of Rhine bridges.

f. 7 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) still in Reserve at Almershausen.
   - Company "C" departed Almershausen 1500E enroute to Treffurt, arrived at Almershausen 1800E.
I. 8 April 1945: 746th Tank Bn.(-) remained in Allmershausen in reserve.

Company "A" relieved from D/2 261st Inf. and attached to 261st. Remained in Wörthhausen (738070) in Regt. reserve.

Company "A" CCL Platoon arrived in Allmershausen after turning CCL's into Ordnance. Company "B" and "C" CCL Plts. continued illumination.

II. 9 April 1945: 746th Tank Bn.(-) remained in Div. Reserve in Allmershausen.

Company "D" departed Wörthhausen 1500E, arrived Gerstungen, Germany 1500E. Relieved from attachment to 261st Inf.

Company "C" and "D" CCL Plts. departed from St. Goar and Mainz to rejoin Battalion.

j. 10 April 1945: 746th Bn.(-) departed Allmershausen 1200E, cleared Gerstungen, Germany 1200E. Distance 21 miles. Remained in Gerstungen in Div. Reserve.

Company "C" and "D" CCL Platoons arrived in Gerstungen from St. Goar and Mainz.

k. 12-13 April 1945: 746th Bn.(-) departed Gerstungen 1200E, closed into Leina, Germany at 1700E on the 12th. Remained in Leina on 13th performing maintenance and rehabilitation.

l. 14-16 April 1945: Bn. departed Leina (037600) 140000E, cleared into Haarhausen, Germany (211551) by 141130B. Started training program on 15th. On 16th received orders to turn in all CCL equipment to Ordnance, to reorganize Battalion, and submit names of surplus personnel.

m. 17-18 April 1945: Bn. departed Haarhausen 171800B, closed into Dorfleins, Germany (231528) 181630E. Still in Div. Reserve.

n. 19 April 1945: Bn. departed Dorfleins 191300B, cleared into Osterode, Germany at 192330E.

n. 20 April 1945: Bn.(less 1 Pl. Co."D") departed Osterode 1200B, closed into Hagenhausen, Germany 201730B.

2d Pl. Co. "D" departed Osterode 1130B for Kirchensetzen Bach, Germany to support 3d Bn., 260th Inf. Were not involved in any action. Company "B" (less 2d Pl.) departed Hagenhausen, Germany, cleared into Dienschwein, Germany 1900E. Company attached to 260th Inf. Regt.

Company "D" plus 3 assault guns and 3 mortars departed Hagenhausen 20153, arrived Schrotsdorf, Germany 23453B. Company (4) to support 261st Inf. Regt., in protecting left flank of Division. Tanks were to be used as a mobile reserve.

Company "C" remained in Division Reserve in Hagenhausen.

o. 21 April 1945: 746th(less Co."A","B", and "D"(4)), remained in Division Reserve in Hagenhausen.

Company "A" in D/2 260th Inf. 5d Pl. with 3 tanks attacked Neumar at 0630E in support of 1 Co. Two tanks in support of two platoons and one with 3d pl. "infantry" as they advanced on the street lead tank.
was knocked out by emplaced AT gun. Other tank, while moving to position to fire on AT gun, was knocked out from the rear by SP gun. The third tank continued to advance with infantry eliminating snipers as called for by the infantry. At 1000 infantry moved back and proceeded to make their way around left flank of town. Tank could not follow through dense woods but gave supporting fire. Estimated enemy killed - 10.

1st Platoon was held in reserve initially. At 0710S 1st Pl. moved into town supporting Co. K. Tanks destroyed two snipers and one house containing machine gun nest. Lead tank was fired upon several times by an SP gun and due to blocked streets was not able to move forward until SP gun could be eliminated. Infantry bazooka teams tried several times to advance to position to destroy SP gun, but were driven back by automatic fire. Infantry commander decided to consolidate positions and allowed tanks to withdraw under cover of darkness. They did under fire of 88mm on the road out of town. Estimated enemy killed by tanks - 7.

Total casualties in company: 3 KIA, 1 SWA, 2 LWA, 1 MIA. Two medium tanks destroyed (one burned).

Company "D" in D/S 260th Inf. 3d Pl. attached to 2d Bn., moved from Dienschwein 0600S, arrived Theutanshafen 0645S. Not involved in any action. 1st Pl. attached to 3d Bn., departed Dienschwein 1230S, arrived Lauterhofen, Germany 1316S. Not involved in any action. 2d Pl. in Regt. Reserve maintained vehicles.

Company "D" (plus prov. Pl.) in D/S 261st Inf. 3d Pl. attached to 1st Bn. cleared Schrotsdorf 1045S, arrived Kainsback. 2d Pl. attached 2nd Bn. cleared Schrotsdorf 1045S, arrived Kirchensittenbach 1140S. Moved to Heesdorf at 1200S.

22 April 1945: Company "E" in D/S of 259th Inf. 2nd Pl. released from 3d Bn., attached to 1st Bn.; 1st Pl. released from 3d Bn., attached to 2d Bn. The 1st Pl., with Inf. and TDs, made pains against slight resistance, clearing approx. 17 villages via. 770660, including Dietkirchen, Escherishohfen, Angenhofen, Lampertsloffen, Felsschloffen, and Limpermshofen. The 2d Pl. went into 1st Bn. sector and took up positions for indirect fire. At 1700S, 2d Pl. fired 31 rounds 76mm at a battery of three 88mm guns. Observation difficult due to haze. Enemy battery ceased to fire and were assumed to be knocked out at 1740S.

Company "E" in D/S of 260th Inf. continued pushing towards Corps objective in 260th zone. 3d Pl. (4 tanks) on right with 2d Bn., 1st Pl. (4 tanks) and 2d Pl. (3 tanks) on left with 3d Bn. 3d Pl. followed two companies on line in their advance in direct support of those companies. 2d Bn. advanced from Theutanshafen to Kirchheim. 1st and 2d platoons supported 3d Bn. by eliminating automatic weapons fire. 1st Pl. destroyed Brunn by supporting fire, completely burned Felsschloffen, assisted in eliminating automatic weapons fire in woods (636), eliminated automatic weapons, destroyed 8 buildings, killed 3 cavalrymen and three horses in Halsl (636). 2d Pl. was in support and not committed to action.

Company "D" in D/S of 261st 1st Pl. 40 section and Mortar section remained in b.t. reserve. Co. (-) departed Schrotsdorf 1530S arrived Oberelsbach 1600S. 2d Pl. departed Theutanshafen 0600S with 2d Bn. enroute to Engelsburg, Germany. 3d Pl. attacked 1st Bn. moved to Alsfeld arriving at 1330S.

Field (-) remained in Engelsburg in Div. Res.
Q. 25 April 1945: 746th (-) departed Diezthachen 0300. Company "B" cleared bridge leading out of town then it collapsed. All other roads were impassable by wheel vehicles, so Germany "O" Maintenance Pl. built a Class 20 bridge. Bn. cleared bridge at 1700, cleared into Heiligenst Engel, by 2100.

Company "I" in D/ of 261st Inf. At 0600 2d Pl. supporting Co. D, 1st Bn. advanced on Lehr (70608). The attack was to jump off the mole at 07000 and there was no time for ground reconnaissance. On reaching a wooded hill 500 yds. W of Lehr, the pl. was forced to halt to explore a nearly impassable trail. It was decided to take the trail because blazing a trail through the woods would bring fire on the infantry. One tank dropped out due to broken track caused by running on blown borihs under direct orders of Inf. commander. Tanks put MG and HE fire on Lehr from defilade positions. Tank was taken in three minutes. Two tanks remained broken and then proceeded with the infantry.

Company "B" in D/ of 261st Inf. Co. rear was enroute to Hohenfils, Germany. 1st platoon was located at Hohenfils, 2d platoon located at Herbott and 3d platoon located at Natla. All platoons pursued enemy to Division Hel Phase line. Resistance was nil.

Company "C" left Wagenhausen, Germany, at 1200 to go to Dietkirchen. While enroute were attached to 261st Inf. Regt. and proceeded to Ncy, Germany. Bn. arrived there at 1330 and were ordered on to Kevermarkt. Company supported 3d Bn. and were given mission of clearing Highway 7 and to take and hold Wagenhausen. Joint 2d Bn. 4 miles southeast ofYorkord and transported some infantry on tanks. Encountered harassing fire from small arms in vic. Seubersdorf at 1800. Two tanks fired on enemy gun positions and destroyed six houses. Ordered at 2000 to return to Dietkirchen and take up defensive positions for the night.

Company "D" in D/ of 261st Inf. Co. (-) departed Geralsbach 1930. Icquered Hertshochen 2215B. Assault Gun section and Mortar section relieved from attack and returned to bn. control. Bn. relieved from attack to 261st Inf. Regt. 2d Pl. attached to 259th, moved to Felchenhausen 1030B. 3d Pl. attached to 260th Inf. Regt. Moved from Alsfeld 0700B, arrived Eggensbach 0900B, continued on to Hohenfeld.

R. 24 April 1945: 746th Tank Bn. (-) departed Dietkirchen 0600, cleared into vic. Velburg 0600B. Assault Gun Platoon attached to "O" company at 1100. Bn. (-) departed vic. Velburg 1500B, cleared into Lasber, Germany, at 1700.

Company "A" in D/ of 259th Inf. At 0700 the company moved from vic. Felchenhausen (756635) to new location vic. Beratthausen (071933). The 1st Pl. was attached to 2d Bn. and advanced vic. Lasber (023801) against light resistance. No casualties, but only one tank arrived at Lasber due to mechanical failures and poor terrain.

Company "B" continued to advance with 260th Inf. No resistance.

Company "C" marched from Dietkirchen at 0645B transporting A Company 261st. Mission to clear road to Hemau, Germany. Reached Hemau after roadblock was destroyed by artillery. Received orders to proceed to Deuring, Germany. Column halted at Bittmarshof and ordered to proceed SE with mission of seizing RR bridge across Danube River at Loiham. Marched South from Hohenfelsbacher with tanks and infantry as lead element. Destroyed one road block by HE fire.
but were slowed down by five successive abatis of 30 to 40 large trees each, two of which were bypassed and the others crushed by the tanks. In need of
support, and arrived there at 1915. During this march 20 enemy were killed
by tank fire.

Company "D" departed Herbertshafen 0610, arrived Velburg 0710. 2d Fl. departed Peckenweiden 1015, arrived Strehlen 1530, attacked to 26th Inf. 3d Fl. departed Herbertshafen 0605. Acted as point for NCT, reached regt.

s. 26 April 1945: 748th Tank En. (-) remained in Laaber in Div. reserve. Performed maintenance and rehabilitation.

Company "A" was released from C/ to 26th and returned to Fl. control in Laaber. Began reorganizing company.

Company "B" marched from Hohenfels to Mitterndorf, arriving 2115. No enemy encountered on march. Company was to move to an assembly area at 0600, the following day to cross treadsway bridge over Danube in support of 26th Inf. Recon. was made of routes to bridgesite and Fl. leaders observed opposite bank of Danube from CPs.

Company "C" remained with 251st in Kaufenried awaiting completion of bridge across Danube.

Company "D" (-) remained in Velburg and established an ASP for the Battalion. 2d Fl. remained with Company "A" in Laaber. 3d Fl. remained with Co. "B" attached to 26th Inf. Regt.

t. 26 April 1945: 748th Tank En. (-) remained in Laaber in Div. reserve. Company "B" moved from Mitterndorf to marshalling area in preparation for crossing Danube on bridge at 0600 on the 27th.

Company "C" ordered to move from Kaufenried to vicinity of Kappelberg and to await completion of bridge and then to support 201st in an assault with the mission of capturing Regensburg, Germany. Orders changed to cross at Gundelshausen. Crossed bridge at 2230 and bivouacked for the night on the far bank of Danube.

Company "D" continued to maintain Fl. ASP in Velburg. 2d and 3d Platoon s attached to Company "A" in Laaber and in Division reserve.

u. 27 April 1945: 748th Tank En. (-) departed Laaber, Germany 0630, crossed Danube River on treadsway bridge at Gundelshausen, and cleared into Gross-
fling (UL5326C9) at 1445. Still in Division reserve.

Company "A" arrived at Grossfling at 1030 and were immediately put in D/ support of 259th Inf. Regt. Moved to area of 26th in Lagfeld 1600. 1st Fl. attached to Co. C, 2d Fl., and moved to area via (113438) at 1900. 3d Fl. (light tanks) attached to Co. B, and moved to via (137440) at 1910.

Company "B" moved from marshalling area and crossed Danube at 0600. Assembled on far bank of river. Moved to Kappelberg to attack town of Abbach in support of Infantry. Town surrendered just before the attack started. Traffic on prevented tanks from rejoining 201st and at 1400 were relieved from D/ to 259th and returned to Fl. at Grossfling, arriving 1100.

Company "C" joined 201st Inf. regt. via bridge at Gundelshausen at 0600. Moved forward passing through Abbach and Abbey and halted beyond Abbach to receive orders from Regt. and to load Infantry on tanks. Mission was to spearhead assault of 201st Inf. on Div. right flank and to drive into Regens-
bory from the south parallel to main railway line to Munich. March was un-
eventful, marked only by willing surrender of isolated groups of enemy. Learned
at 1200Z that surrender negotiations for the city had already commenced, with the
71st Inf. attaching from the east. Ordered by Inf. commander to disregard AT
artillery and to proceed into city with utmost speed without regard to normal
tactical precautions. This was accomplished over strong protest and city was
entered at 1315Z. Tank company moved to Traubling, in Regt. reserve.
Company "D" (loss 2 715.) continued to maintain Bn. ASP in Velburg
and to take care of surplus personnel of the Bn.

v. 26 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) remained in Div. reserve in Grass-
fing.

Company "A" in D/5 of 259th Inf. 2d Pl. supporting 2d Bn. moved
from Oberkager (117426) to follow infantry and to take positions to fire on high
ground vic. Saul (081413). Orders changed to select positions to fire on Unter-
saal. Town surrendered before any firing took place. 460 men were taken prisoner
by company commander of "A" while making road run. Unit moved into Untersaal for
the night. 2d Pl. (light) withdrawn from support of Co. E and moved to protect
Regt. right flank about 1 mile S of Saul. Moved to Schlabsberg at the completion
of mission. 3d Pl. (light) departed Lengfeld 1030Z, arrived Feising 1100Z. In
reserve.

Company "B" in Division reserve in Grassling. Reorganized company
into two platoons. Assault Gun pl. returned to Headquarters Co.

Company "C" remained in Traubling in Regt. reserve of 261st.

Company "D"(-) departed Velberg 1600Z enroute to Grassling.

w. 29 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) remained in Division reserve in
Grassling.

Company "A" in D/5 259th Inf. 1st Pl. moved from Untersaal to
Attacking and Hohenpfahl vic. (064222) meeting no resistance. While in Hohenpfahl
assisted in taking approximately 800 Pzr.

Company "C" remained in Traubling in Regt. reserve.

Company "D"(-) cleared into Grassberg (1 mi. NE Grassling) at 0230Z,
in Division reserve.

x. 30 April 1945: 748th Tank Bn.(-) still in Div. reserve in Grassling.

Company "A" (plus 2 pls. "B" Co.) relieved from D/5 of 259th Inf. 
Departed Lengfeld (123445) 1400Z and cleared into Grassberg (153503) at 1530Z.

Company "C" relieved from D/5 261st Inf. Remained in Traubling per-
forming maintenance.

3. Losses in personnel and equipment:

a. KIA-3 EM, KIA-1 EM, SWA-1 EM, LWA-1 CPT, 1 EM.
b. 2 Medium tanks destroyed (1 burned).

4. Estimated enemy casualties.

a. Personnel

(1) Killed- 63
(2) Wounded-47
(3) Captured (in conjunction with Inf.)- 3,498.
b. Equipment:
6 MG0, 30 freight cars, 4 Panzerfausts, 3 army horses, 30 rifles, 3 88mm guns.

5. Awards and Decorations:
None.

SIGNED

ROBERT R. GLASS
Lieut. Col., 768th Tank Battalion, Commanding.

13. Incls.
Incl. 1- After Action Report, Company "A".
Incl. 2- After Action Report, Company "B".
Incl. 3- After Action Report, Company "C".
Incl. 4- After Action Report, Company "D".
Incl. 5- After Action Report, Hq. Company.
Incl. 6- After Action Report, Svc. Company.
Incl. 8- S-3 Journal.
Incl. 9- Messages for the period.
Incl. 10- Field Orders for the period.
Incl. 11- Operation Instructions for the period.
Incl. 12- General Orders awarding Purple Heart.
Incl. 13- General Orders for Decorations of previous month.

NOT INCLUDED
SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO: Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 308, U.S. Army

1. In accordance with AR 345-105 the following report is submitted covering the operations of elements of 748th Tank Battalion in support of the 65th Infantry Division, 5th Infantry Division, 87th Infantry Division, 89th Infantry Division, 80th Infantry Division, and 26th Infantry Division from 1 March '45 to 31 March '45.

2. Chronological history of events:
   a. 1-15 March 45: 748th Tank Battalion in Hagondange, France (VUS647232) training with DD tanks and CCL tanks. Practice river crossings being made at site one mile south of Ukange, France in conjunction with 1301 Eng. Regt.
   c. 17 March 45: 1st, 2nd Platoons Co. "C" attached to 259th Inf. Regt.; 3rd Pl. and AG Pl. (6-105's) attached to 260th Inf. Regt. Run made by platoon leaders of sectors to be fought in. Crews maintained vehicles.
   d. 18 March 45: 1st Pl. Co. "C", departed Saarlautern, Germany 0630A, arrived assembly area at Saarlautern-Roden at 0800A. Jumped off at 0800A to support 2nd Bn., 259th Inf. Regt. in assault on pillboxes to East of town. Tanks fired on pillboxes and protected flank of Bn. by firing to SW. Assisted infantry in taking several boxes and advanced to an anti-tank ditch approximately 500 yards from LD. Here Inf. dug in, awaiting the advance of the Co. on their left. Tanks returned to attack position, assisted in picking up wounded infantry and tank crews on the way back. At 1430A Lieut. McAllister, Pl. Ldr., accompanied by another tank, went forward carrying ammunition for the infantry company in the AT ditch. This tank was hit by an 88mm and burned. Tank Crew of another tank was wounded when he dismounted trying to rescue men from burning tank. One other tank attempted to rescue Pl. Ldr's crew but were driven off by heavy fire. Enemy killed 4, MG's destroyed 2.
   e. 2nd Pl. Co. "C", jumped off at 0900A to support left company of 2nd Bn., 259th Inf. Tanks proceeded infantry to pillboxes, firing into openings and hand held "Butted Up". Had difficulty in getting Inf. to move into pillboxes even after two tanks were at the rear door of several pillboxes.
Finally got the infantry up, no charge to blow the boxes, tank hit by bazooka near pillbox, since squad assigned to protect tank had disappeared. On tank hit mine advancing to pillbox. On tank fell in shell hole. Two remaining tanks advanced up and down the pillbox line and up to anti-tank ditch until all ammunition was fired, then they returned to Co. C for resupply of ammunition. Inf. failed to take boxes and withdrew.

3rd Pl., Co. "C" departed Saarlautern 0600A, arrived Saarlautern-Roden at 0600A. Pl. was attached to 2nd Bn., 250th Inf. Tanks were kept in reserve all day. Returned to Saarlautern at 2000A. No action.

AG Platoon departed Saarlautern 0600A, arrived Saarlautern-Roden 0615A. waited in assembly area until 0600A. Were attached to 2nd Bn., 260th Inf., to assist in clearing enemy from the several blocks they still held in NE section on the town. 1st Section moved to support right company. An infantry guide leading the tanks stepped over a "daisy-chain" of US AT mines in a street declared clear by the Inf. and directed the lead tank onto the mines. Both tracks were blown. Other two tanks continued, after street was cleared, and supported Inf. by firing on houses, pillboxes. 2nd Section supported left company by firing on strongpoints. Directed. Seven PIV's were captured when tank tried out his flamethrower on a known strongpoint. Enemy killed - 15, Enemy captured - 7. One MG destroyed. Losses for Company: One Officer, 4 EM missing; 1 Officer 9 EM wounded; 1 tank destroyed; 4 tanks disabled.

e. 19 March 45: 1st, 3rd Platoons attached to 259th Inf. Regt. AG Platoon attached to 260th Inf. Regt. 2nd Pl. was inoperative.

AG Platoon departed Saarlautern 0600A, arrived Saarlautern-Roden 0615A. Heavy fog caused tanks to remain in Bn. reserve all day. Enemy withdrew during the previous night and during the fog, so town was taken. At 1700A, AG Pl. attached to 261st Inf. Regt. Tanks returned to Saarlautern to await orders from new Regt. Enemy captured - 1.

1st and 3rd Platoons, Co. "C" attached 1st Bn., 259th Inf. Regt., remained in reserve at Saarlautern. At 1230A both Pls. departed Saarlautern, arrived Saarlautern-Roden 1300A. Departed Saarlautern-Roden 1330A moved east, crossed AT ditch filled in by 748th Tank-doser, and arrived on highway to Saarwellingen. Moved on to high ground SE of Saarwellingen. No enemy was contacted. Both platoons returned to Saarlautern at 1900A.

f. 20 March 45: 1st and 3rd Platoons, Co. "C" attached to 259th Inf. departed Saarlautern 0630A, arrived Saarwellingen, Germany 1130A. Remained in west side of town in Regt. reserve. No enemy contacted.

AG Platoon departed Saarlautern 0800A arrived Saarwellingen, Germany 1100A. Went into position east side of town in Regt. reserve of 261st Inf.. No contact with the enemy.

At 2130A message received from Third Army to move 748th Tank Bn. on the 21st March to XII Corps. Co. "C" to be disengaged from 65th Inf. Div., XX Corps. S-3 and advance party to go to XX Corps and explain DD equipment to Corps G-3.

g. 21 March 45: Advance party departed Hagondange, France 0730A, arrived Simmern, Germany 1300A. Reported to G-3 Corps, were first attached to 69th Inf. Div., but upon explaining that the equipment of the Bn. consisted of amphibious tanks, order was changed and Bn. assigned to 5th Inf. Div.

748th Tank Bn. (less Co. "C", AG Pl., and Echelon "B") departed Hagondange, France 1400A arrived Wittlich, Germany 2230A.

Co. "C" departed Saarwellingen, Germany 0330A, arrived Hagondange, France 1030A, Turned in sister tanks and prepared DD Tanks for march to XII Corps.
h. 22 March 45: S-3 reported to XII Corps CP. For conference for coordination of river crossing at O, panheim, Germany. Find run of crossing site and found old ferry site that could be used without use of highline or prepared banks. Co. "A" and "C" attached to 11th Inf. Regt.; Co. "B" attached to 10th Inf. Regt., Bn. CO reported to Div. CP to obtain orders and sent for Company Commanders to report to Regts. 746th Tank Bn. (less Co. "C" and Echelon "B") departed Tattlech, Germany 0600A, arrived vicinity Bad Kreuznach at 0900A. Co. Commanders reported 5th Inf. Div. to 2130A to report to Regts. (Co. "A" and "B" moved to Worstadt, Germany at 2200A. Reserviced and maintained vehicles.).

Co. "A", Assault Gun Platoon, and Echelon "B" departed Hagondange, France 0700A, arrived Lutzerath, Germany at 2000A.

i. 23 March 45: Co. "A" departed Worstadt 0700A with 5 tanks floatable, other DD's were being prepared for floating. Main difficulty was torn curtains, loss of waterproofing due to 125 mile march, and mechanical difficulties (loss of bogie wheels, etc.). Arrived Opeinheim 1000A. Tanks began crossing Rhine river at 1100A. Bn. began crossing without any trouble and reorganized on east bank, then moved into Geinsheim, Germany. Tanks were attached to 2nd Bn., 11th Inf. Regt. At 1400A Co. "A" (-) moved with 2nd Bn., departed from Geinsheim and advanced to Wallerstal, Germany where they joined with 1st Bn., 11th Inf. Set up defensive positions with 1 Fl. of T.D.'s. No enemy encountered during the day.

Co. "E" departed Worstadt with 3 tanks floatable. Arrived Oppenheim, Germany at 1015A. One tank was attached from Co. "A". Tanks began crossing after Co. "A". Two crossed without difficulty. Third tank sank just as it began to float. Probably due to a weak curtain, as a large hole appeared there as the tank fully entered the water. Tank sank immediately in about 20 feet of water. Crews saved after three members of another crew divined and saved two who were having trouble swimming. Next tank crossed without trouble and joined other two tanks on east bank. Here tanks were stripped of DD equipment and prepared for action. Co. Commanders contacted 1st Bn., 10th Inf. Regt., made ren. to CP Co. "E" (476305). Plans made for clearing area in head of Rhine and Alt. Rhine rivers (478200-478200-498363-510300). Tanks moved to 476255. At 1515A three tanks in support of Co.'s "A" and "E", 1st Bn., 10th Inf. attached to clear area. At 1600A attack was completed and unit moved into Liefheim (506490) for the night.

Enemy killed - 1; Enemy captured in conjunction with Inf. - .250

Approx. 200 taken from a ship located on the Alt. Rhine river (490985).

Co. "E" DD Platoon (6 tanks) attached to 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf. Regt., 5th Inf. Div. for purpose of providing illumination to protect bridgehead at night. Four tanks placed at Oppenheim to assist 3rd Fl. of "C" Co. Two tanks placed near Hiersheim with 1st Fl. of "E" Co., River was illuminated until ordered blacked out by Engineers building a bridge.

At 1000A mine were DD's arrived at Oppenheim to cross over and join "A" (-) and "B" (-). As the first tank was starting across orders were received from Bn. Div. not to send anymore over and to proceed immediately to proceed to VIII Corps for further orders. The mine DD's were returned to Schirheim, Germany (254357). Bn. CO and advance party reported for Liefheim at 0700A, arrived at VIII Corps CP at 2200A. Received orders to report to 27th Inf. Div. to support their crossing of Rhine vicinity Poppen. Arrived 27th CP at 2400A. Informed the Div. that 746th could provide Co. "C" with 15 floatable DD's.

3. 24 March 45: Co. "A" (-) attached to 1st Bn., 11th Inf. jumped off at 1400A in support of Co. "B". At 1530A the Co. Commander's tank was hit by a bazooka and burned. It had just previously crushed a bazooka team in a trench. Other three tanks continued advancing with Inf. and successfully captured half of Gross-Cerau, Germany by 1900A.

Enemy killed - 49; Enemy captured (with Inf.) - 135; One SP gun destroyed. Own Losses - 1 Officer, 3 TK wounded; 1 tank destroyed.

Co. "B" (two tanks) was relieved from attachment to 10th Inf. and attached to 11th Inf. at 1800A. Began attack at 1915A with Co. "B", 1st Bn., on Gross-Cerau (584475). Mowed from Wallerstaf (515455) SE of main highway leading into Gross-Cerau and led Inf. by fire and movement to outskirts of town. Tanks covered Inf. by heavy fire while Inf. moved into town. Tanks followed and supported attack by fire. Entered town at 1510A and cleared town at 1910A. At 2000A Co. "B" (-) was relieved from 5th Inf. Div. and reverted to 748th Tank Bn. Stopped in Gross-Cerau overnight.

Enemy killed - 3; Enemy captured (with Inf.) - 400; Houses partially damaged - 26.

Co. "B" CDL Platoon attached to 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf. Two tanks crossed Rhine at 0930A and protected eleven ammunition trucks for trip to Trebur, Germany. Tanks left Geisheim at 1600A and returned to Nierstein. Here the platoon was attached to 2nd Bn., 101st Inf., 26th Inf. Div. No action during the night.


748th Tank Bn. (-) departed Schwerin 0800A, arrived Kratzenburg 1700A.

Co. "A" CDL Platoon (3 tanks) departed Kratzenburg, Germany 1000A, arrived vicinity Bad Salzig at 2200A. Bivouacked there for the night. Mission was to pick positions to illuminate river to provide light for 174th FA (585 SF) to fire on barges floating toward bridge at Roppard.


Co. "E" (-) departed Gross-Cerau at 0600A, arrived Schwerin at 1350A. Began regrouping and maintenance.

Co. "E" CDL Platoon attached to 2nd Bn., 326th Inf., 26th Div. after being relieved from 2nd Bn., 101st Regt. at 0800. Tanks placed in positions at Oppenheim and Nierstein. No illumination during the night.

Co. "G" remained in bivouac area vicinity Breit, waiting for Inf. to clear small arms fire from east shore so crossing could be made. Inf. ran into stiff opposition and could not gain their first objective. At approximately 1400A order was received from VII Corps for 748th Tank Bn. (-) to be attached to 26th Div. to support their crossing of the Rhine vicinity of St. Goar on the 26th. Co. "G" reported to 26th Div. CT and informed them of the situation, as to how tanks were attached to several divisions, others unflankable due to long trip, and others delayed. Then went to VII Corps at Cvernern to discuss matter with G-3. It was decided that Bn. would stay with 26th Div. and Co. "G" would cross as planned. At 1900A message was received from VII Corps to attach Co. "D" to 26th Div. Co. "D" departed from vicinity Breit at 1900A and closed in Eichborn at 0200A. Co. was to cross Rhine at St. Goar on 26th, go to an assembly area and to 26th Div. reserve.
Company "A" Platoon illuminated river at Bad Salzig from 2200A until daylight, 681st T.D. Bn. worked at bridgehead with four rounds from the 75mm. Received one direct hit by mortar but damage done.

1. 26 March 45: Co. "C" remained at Emmelhausen while Co. Commander and Officers from 1501 Eng. Regt. made recon. of crossing site at St. Goar. No suitable site could be found due to steep banks and swift current. Div. was notified of the length of time necessary to install highline and prepare banks so they arranged for Co. "C" to cross the river on the bridge at Boppard. Co. "C" crossed Rhine on bridge at Boppard at 1330A and moved to assembly position at Bornhofen. Co. was to follow Task Force Johnson and to drop off at Reichswald and remain in Div. reserve. Task Force Johnson ran into small arms fire at Eister so two tanks went into town with Co. of Inf. and cleaned it out. Tanks bivouaced in Kester for the night. Enemy captured (with Inf.) - 250, Enemy killed - 5.

Co. "B" C.D.L Platoon was relieved from attachment from 328th Inf. when that unit moved out. Pl. Leader reported to XII Corps and was given orders to remain at bridgehead and work with 691st T.D. Bn. C.D.L's illuminated river when called for by the T.D.'s.

Co. "A" C.D.L Platoon continued to illuminate river at Bad Salzig from 2200A until dawn.

Co. "C" C.D.L Platoon (5 tanks) moved from Kratzenburg at 1800A to St. Goar, Germany to work with Platoon of SP 155's to protect bridge. No illumination that night.

At 2300A message was received from VIII Corps that Third Army had ordered the 7481th Tank Bn. to send an Officer to XX Corps immediately.

m. 27 March 45: Received call at 0800A that all available DD's were to be sent to XX Corps immediately. Later confirmed with information that DD's were to cross either Rhine river or Main river with 68th Inf. Div.

Co. "D" (-) (six DD's) departed Kratzenburg, Germany at 1430A, arrived Obr. Olm at 2230A (80 miles). Four DD's from Co. "B" departed Schim-sheim at 2400A to join Co. "D" (-).

Co. "B" C.D.L Platoon continued to provide illumination at Nierstein and Oppenhein when called for.

Co. "A" C.D.L Platoon continued to provide illumination at Bad Salzig from 2200A until dawn.

Co. "C" C.D.L Platoon continued to provide illumination at St. Goar when called for by artillery.

Co. "C" alerted at 0430A in Kester, Germany moved to Zorn where a halt was made for refueling. 1st Platoon assigned mission to assault the town of Heide with Task Force Johnson. Pl. encountered four 40mm AA guns north of town which were destroyed by tanks alone. Knocked out crews with 75mm and 30 cal. and then over ran guns. 1st Pl. rallied in field near Heide, 2nd and 3rd Pl. were given the mission to lead Task Force Johnson into and beyond Kemel, Germany. Before arriving at Kemel tanks ran into a column of enemy wheel vehicles. 2nd Pl. knocked out two vehicles, killed 15 enemy. 3rd Pl. knocked out three vehicles, killed 20 enemy. Just east of Kemel lead tank was knocked out by 88mm firing from woods NE of Kemel. Two 88mm's knocked out by 2nd Pl.

Co. "C" and T.D.'s from 602nd. Tanks and Task Force bivouacked in Kemel. Enemy killed - 40, 4 40mm AA guns destroyed, 5 trucks destroyed - 3 damaged, 1 11mm destroyed.

Company losses - 1 EM killed; 1 Officer, 2 EM wounded; 1 tank destroyed (burned)
SECRET

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n. 28 March 45: Co. "C" attached to Task Force Johnson (39th Inf. Div.) in Kemel, alerted at 0600A, started its march to Bad Schwalbach at 0700A. Bivouaced in park. During the day received sniper fire and assisted Inf. to guard outpost by manning five MG's. 1 enemy captured.

Company losses - 1 Officer wounded.

Co. "D" (-) with Pl. of 1301 Eng. Rept. moved from Obr. Olm to assembly area at 445545 at 0600A. Four DD's from Co. "B" arrived in assembly area at 0800A. Co. was attached to 319th Inf. Regt. 80th Inf. Div.. A recce was made with Engrs. Officers for suitable spot on both river banks for a crossing site. The slope was good but terrain boggy. Engrs. decided mats would be necessary on both banks which would take six hours. Regt. decided to ferry DD's across rather than wait on Engrs.. Co. was assigned to support 1st Bn., 319th Inf. and told to report to Hochheim (442671) upon arrival. Ten tanks were ferried across Main River (443355) at 1400A. Tanks remained in Regt. Reserve. At 1815A message was received relieving Co. "D" (-) from 80th Div., XX Corps and ordering them to return to 74th Tank Bn. in VIII Corps. Co. crossed bridge on Main (443355) at 2100A. Returned to Schimshiem to report to Co. "B".

Co. "C" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridgehead at Nierstein and Oppenheim when called for.

Co. "A" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridgehead at Bad Salzig from 2200A until dawn.

Co. "C" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridgehead at St. Goar as called for.

o. 29 March 45: Co. "D" CDL Platoon departed Kratzenberg 1430A for Mainz, Germany to report to Task Force Polk of XX Corps to protect XX Corps ponton bridge at that point.

74th Tank Bn. (-) attached to 59th Inf. Div. departed Kratzenberg at 1500L, crossed Rhine at St. Goar, closed in Weisel, Germany at 2000A.

Co. "C" alerted at 0600A in Bad Schwalbach. Relieved from Task Force Johnson on which was dissolved. Departed for Schwalbach at 0600A, arrived Freiburg attached to 355th Inf. Regt. 1st and 2nd Pls. moved to Aulnehauser and then to Ludenscheid. Assigned to support 3rd Bn. of 355th Inf. to clear area to Rhine River. Accompanied Inf. to town of Geisenheim where they bivouaced for the night. 3rd Pl. was attached to 2nd Bn., 355th Inf. advanced from Freiburg to Steinach. Led Inf. Co. in advance to Kiedrich. No enemy contacted. Went right in town.

Co. "E" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridgehead at Oppenheim as called for.

Co. "A" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridgehead area to Bad Salzig (South of Bogard) from 2200A until dawn.

Co. "C" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridgehead at St. Goar when called for.

Co. "B" CDL Platoon provided illumination at Mainz when called for.


74th Tank Bn. (-) departed Weisel, Germany 1600A, arrived Springen, Germany 2330A.

Co. "D" CBA received orders at Oppenheim bridge and continued illumination when called for.
Co. "A" CDL continued to illuminate river at Bad Salzig from 2200A until dawn.
Co. "C" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridge at St. Goar when called for.
Co. "D" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate bridge at "cims" when called for.

q. 31 March 45; Co. "C" maintained vehicles in Geisenheim from 0800 to 1130.
Departed Geisenheim, Germany 1300A, arrived Springen, Germany 1730A.
745th Tank Bn. (-) continued to regroup En. at Springen, attached to 89th Inf. Div. Remained in Div. Reserve.
Co. "B" CDL Platoon relieved from XII Corps at 1200A and returned to Co. "B" at Sinsheim.
Co. "A" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate river at Bad Salzig from 2200A until dawn.
Co. "C" CDL Platoon continued to illuminate river at St. Goar when called for.
Co. "D" continued to illuminate river at Mainz when called for.

During the month of March 1945 the 745th Tank Bn. was attached to XX Corps, XII Corps, VIII Corps and had elements of the Bn. attached to 65th Div., 5th Div., 67th Div., 89th Div., 60th Div., and 26th Div. Marches of 195 miles involving the entirety of the Bn., 60 miles, and 60 miles involving elements of the Bn. caused undue large maintenance casualties—namely basic wheels, which were hard to replace from Ordnance. Tanks were made unfloatable due to rough treatment on road from Hagondange, France to Sinsheim, Germany, when large trucks on narrow streets scraped side of canvas which ripped them. The Bn. was never given the time to settle in one spot and get all equipment back in shape before being committed in some new locality.

3. Losses in personnel and equipment.
   a. KIA - 1 Off., 4 En.; WIA - 2 En.; WIA - 2 Off., 10 En.
   b. 3 medium tanks destroyed; 1 medium tank (20) sunk in Main River; 1 DD sunk in Moselle River; 3 medium tanks disabled; 1 Assault Gun (20P) disabled.

4. Estimated enemy casualties.
   a. Personnel
      (1) Killed - 117
      (2) Captured (in conjunction with Inf. units) - 114
   b. Equipment - 1 60mm AA gun, 4 40mm AA guns, 1 8P gun, 3 VC's, 8 trucks.

5. Awards and Decorations.
   a. One officer, one enlisted man recommended for Silver Star.
   b. Three enlisted men recommended for Soldier's Medal.
   c. Nine enlisted men recommended for France Star.
   d. Eleven enlisted men awarded Purple Heart by this Battalion.
9-Incls.
Incl 1 - S-3 Journal
Incl 2 - After Action Reports Co. "G"
Incl 3 - After Action Reports Co. "E"
Incl 4 - After Action Reports Co. "A"
Incl 5 - After Action Reports Co. "D"
Incl 6 - Messages for period covered by report
Incl 7 - Field Orders for period covered by report
Incl 8 - General Orders awarding Purple Hearts
Incl 9 - General Orders for awards of previous month

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
RESTRICTED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 11 JUN 45
Subject: After Action Report.

TO: Commanding General, Third U.S. Army, APO 408, U.S. Army.

1. In accordance with AR 545-103, the following report is submitted covering the operations of the 76th Tank Battalion in support of the 66th Infantry Division from 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945.

2. Chronological history of events:

b. 1 May 1945: 76th (-) attached to 66th Division in Reserve at Grassling, Germany.

   Company "A" attached to 255th Infantry Regiment: 1st Platoon to 1st Battalion, 2d Platoon to 2d Battalion, and 1st Platoon Company "B" to 3d Battalion. Departed Abensberg, Germany 0506, destination Ramsdorf, Germany (795222), received orders to proceed on to Pocking, Germany (122933) instead. Company entrust at close of period.

   Company "B" attached to 260th Infantry Regiment in Regt. Reserve at Regensburg, Germany (190556).

   Company "C" attached to 261st Infantry Regiment (plus 1 Platoon Company "B"), departed Trenklingen, Germany 12166, entrust to Schalding, Germany. Pushed forward all night in snow. At 0200 SB light tank platoon was sent forward to relieve L. & R. Platoon pinned down at Altenbrunner, Germany. Enemy was firing from railroad cars near the road. Light tanks destroyed by fire: 1 20mm AA gun, 3 amm trailers, 1 ammo boxcar, 1 oil car, and 25 houses. Moved on forward until stopped by a defended roadblock. Light tanks dropped back and medium tanks came forward and destroyed block and resistance with 75mm fire. One light tank was damaged by bazooka fire at Schalding. 1 EM = SWA, 1 EM LWA, 1 EM STA.

b. 2 May 1945: 76th (-) departed Grassling, Germany at 0530C entrust to Noss, Germany. Received change of destination while entrust and cleared into Ausham, Germany at 1700C. In Division Reserve.

   Company "A" continued to move with 255th Infantry to objective. 2d Platoon and Lt. Platoon arrived in Pocking, Germany at 1500C. 1st Platoon continued on to Hartkirchen, Germany.

   Company "B" attached to 260th Infantry moved from Regensburg 0600C to Steindorf, Germany (090930). Distance of 30 miles. No action.

   Company "C" attached to 261st Infantry continued to move rapidly to SB. Departed Schalding, Germany 0615C entrust to Passau. At Fering, Germany, the lead tank was hit from second story window by bazooka. 1 EM KIA, 1 Off SNIA, 3 EM SWA. Bazooka team was destroyed by infantry and column moved on. Encountered sniper fire which was taken care of and proceeded on to Passau. Arrived in Passau 0600C and moved rapidly through the town to try and capture the bridge over the Inn River. Bridge was blown just as infantry and tanks arrived. All three tank platoons then supported infantry in a methodical clearing up of Passau for snipers, bazooka teams, etc. One Mark IV was in the town but destroyed by TBs.

Casualties: 1 EM KIA, 1 Off SNIA, 3 EM SWA

Damage to Enemy: Killed 75, Wounded 100.
May 1945: 746th (-) in Division Reserve at Ansheim, Germany. Assault Gun Platoon (6-108B) departed Ansheim 0800B, arrived Steindorf, Germany 1100B, attached to Company "A".

Company "A" attached to 260th Infantry waited orders to cross bridge over Inn River at Scheckling. Two light tanks sent to airfield near Pocking to help guard 4,500 Pk FPO, Zeughaus.

Company "B" (less 1st Platoon) attached to 260th Infantry departed Steindorf (0800B) at 1200B, cleared into Steindorf at 1400B. Performed maintenance while waiting for bridge to be fixed over Inn River. 24 Platoon supported 2d Battalion, 260th Infantry in clearing missions from Steindorf (221555) to Inn River. No rounds expended.

Company "D" (less 1 Platoon) Company "D") attached 261st departed Passau 0730B, arrived Ansheim, Germany 2030B. 150 Pk surrendered to tanks whilearrants. Waited for bridge to be completed over Inn River.

May 1945: 746th (-) departed Ansheim, Germany at 1700B, crossed Inn River at Scheckling, cleared into Rosbach, Austria at 1815B.

Company "A" attached to 260th Infantry. 1st Platoon tanks crossed Inn River at 1425B approximately 1400B. Moved to Klauskirchen, Austria (520886). Remainder of Company stayed at Pocking.

Company "B" attached to 260th Infantry. Tanks crossed river at 140846, moved to Klauskirchen, Austria (3104). No Action.

Company "C" attached to 261st Infantry. Tanks crossed Inn River at 140845. Pushed forward rapidly to Kaiserskirchen, Austria against scattered opposition.

May 1945: 746th (-) departed Rosbach, Austria 0900B, cleared into Eferding, Austria 1600B.

Company "A" (less 1st Platoon) departed Pocking, Germany, cleared into Eferding, Austria at 1730B. 1st Platoon departed Klauskirchen 1100B, cleared into Hart, Austria 1700B. No Action.

Company "B" attached 260th Infantry departed Klauskirchen, Austria and followed Infantry and trains into Austria at 1800B.

Company "C" departed Klauskirchen 0700B moving with a tank force from 261st Infantry. Met very light resistance, mostly small arms. Entered part of Austria at 1600B. Departed Austria at 1800B and continued on to Enns, Austria against little opposition. Took Enns by 1900B and billeted there for the night.

Company "D" (less 2 Platoons) remained in Rosbach. Sent men to Ordinance to pick up new tanks for Battalion.

May 1945: 746th (-) departed Eferding, Austria 1030B, crossed Traun River at Lins at 1200B. Destination was changed while enroute so column returned to vio. Hart, Austria just outside of Lins. Received orders that all tank companies would return to the Battalion.

Company "A" (less 1st Platoon) moved with Battalion C.P. from Eferding to Hart, Austria. 1st Platoon departed Hart, Austria 0800B with 1st Battalion, 269th Infantry, moved to Kappledorf, Austria. Received orders to return to Battalion and rejoined Battalion at Hart at 1700B.

Company "B" relieved from attachment to 260th Infantry. Remained in billets via. Hart, Austria until Battalion joined them.

Company "C" relieved from attachment to 261st Infantry at Enns, Austria. Departed Enns at 1600B, cleared into Hart, Austria 1800B.

Company "D" (less 2 Platoons) remained in Rosbach, Austria.

May 1945: 746th (less Co. "D" (-)) in Division Reserve in vio. Hart, Austria. Maintained vehicles. Received message to cease all movements and operations.

Company "D" remained in Rosbach.
b. 6 May 1945: 746th in Division Reserve near Hart, Austria. Company "D" (-) rejoined Battalion at 1250 hours. Battalion formation held and appropriate ceremony given in honor of personnel killed in action.

1. 3 May 1945 - 31 May 1945: 746th Tank Battalion in billets vic. Hart, Austria. Engaged in policing area and providing guards for steel plant in Linz, Austria. Training program instituted and inspections made of all clothing, equipment, and vehicles. Sanitation program completely planned and awaiting only the issue of tenders.

5. Losses in personnel and equipment:
   a. M1A 1 M4; M1A 1 Officer, 1 M4; M1A 1 M4; M1A 1 M4.
   b. 1 medium tank damaged by bazooka, 1 light tank damaged by bazooka. (Both evacuated by personnel).

4. Estimated enemy casualties:
   a. Personnel:
      1. Killed - 102
      2. Wounded - 3
      3. PW (in conjunction with Infantry units) - 16,591.
   b. Equipment:
      1. 30mm AA gun, 1 amm. car, 1 oil car, 3 amm. trailers, 27 houses.

5. Awards and Decorations:
   None.

Robert S. Cockcroft
ROBERT S. COCKROFT
Major, 746th Tank Battalion, Commanding.

Incl:
1. After Action Report, Company "A".
2. After Action Report, Company "B".
3. After Action Report, Company "C".
4. After Action Report, Company "D".
7. After Action Report, Medical Detachment.
8. 8-9 Journal.
9. Messages for the period.
10. Field Orders for the period.
11. Operations Instructions for the period.
12. General Orders awarding the Purple Heart.
13. General Orders for decorations of previous month.