

Unit History



UNIT HISTORY
PERIOD 1 March 1945--31 March 1945

The 1st of March found the 2nd Tank Destroyer Group in Amelby, Germany. On the 2nd of March the Group moved into Munchen-Gladbach where it remained until 28 March when it displaced Munchen Gladbach and closed at Friedrichsfeld, Germany where it remained the balance of this period.

During this period Group continued coordinating anti-tank defenses in XIX Corps sector during the final stages of Operation "GRENADÉ" crossing of the Roer River. While engaged in this operation, Group made preparations and plans pertaining to the "Over-all cover" plan in connection with the crossing of the Rhine River as it affected the Tank Destroyer Battalions in XIX Corps.

In between the completion of Operation "GRENADÉ" and the start of Operation "GRENADÉ" crossing the Rhine, Group obtained Army authority to convert the 801 Tank Destroyer Battalion to a Self-Propelled unit, checked and supervised the instruction, training, and supply of all Tank Destroyer Units in XIX Corps concentrating particularly on the conversion training of the 801 Tank Destroyer Battalion.

In addition to its other activities and missions Group reestablished its Fire Control Center and started operation at Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center.

Group also busied itself preparing extensive plans for future operations in readiness for any armored contingencies that might arise East of the Rhine, while many terrain, road, and enemy reports were prepared and issued to lower units.

One of the outstanding accomplishments during this period was the action of crossing the Rhine by the Ninth United States Army establishing a new milestone in past accomplishments of United States Forces and preparing the way for subsequent operations in pursuing the enemy--Eastward towards Berlin.

A high light in the history of Group during this period was the promotion of the Group Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Paul B. Bell to full Colonel, AUS.



The following additional personnel have joined the Group during this month:

Pfc Merle V. Reel joined on 13 March being transferred from the 821 Tank Destroyer Battalion per Special Order 1811Q, 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, dated 11 March 1945.

Pvt. Roy Hubbard transferred from 18th Reinforcement Depot to Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group per paragraph 17, Special Order 73, Hq. 18th Reinforcement Depot dated 14 March 1945.

Pvt. Ernest W. Fudickar transferred from 18th Reinforcement Depot to Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, per paragraph 86, Special Order 84, Hq. 18 Reinforcement Depot, dated 25 March 1945.

1st Lt. Leon L. Neel relieved of assignment to 823 Tank Destroyer Battalion and assigned to Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group per paragraph 1, Special Order 27, Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, dated 30 March 1945.

On 12 March Technician 5th Grade Harry W. Calton was put on Detached Service with the 149th Engineer Combat Battalion, per paragraph 1, Special Order 19, Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, dated 12 March 1945.

On 13 March Staff Sgt. Edward J. Kahoun and Pfc Herman M. Funk were put on Detached Service with the 258th Engineer Combat Battalion for an indefinite period per Special Order 17, Hq. 1153rd Engineer Combat Group, dated 13 March 1945.

Technician 5th Grade Harry W. Calton returned from Detached Service with 149th Engineer Combat Battalion on 17 March and returned to duty.

Staff Sgt. Edward J. Kahoun returned from detached service with 1153 Engineer Combat Group on 26 March and returned to duty.

Pfc Herman M. Funk returned from Detached Service with 1153 Engineer Combat Group and entered hospital from injuries received in line of duty.

Technician 4th Grade, Angelo Cascio, was reduced to Private per paragraph 1, Special Order 15, Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group dated 1 March.



Private Angelo Cascio was transferred to Hq. Battery XIX Corps Artillery per paragraph 1, Special Order 16, Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group dated 2 March.

The following named men were promoted to Private First Class per Company Order 3, Hq. Co., 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, dated 5 March:

Pvt. Gene M. Walston
Pvt. Herman M. Funk
Pvt. Domenic T. Gizzarelli
Pvt. Vanamee T. Whitney

Technician 5th Grade, Doyle Y. Jones, was transferred in grade to Hq. 821 Tank Destroyer Battalion per paragraph 1, Special Order 18, Hq. 2nd Tank Destroyer Group, dated 11 March.

Lt. Colonel Paul B. Bell was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service from 27 February 1944 to 31 May 1944 per General Order 70, Hq. XIX Corps dated 29 March 1945.

Master Sgt. Joseph M. Kneeland was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service from 19 June 1944 to 27 February 1945 per General Order 59, Hq. XIX Corps, dated 13 March 1945.

Major Lawrence A. Green and Captain Herbert M. Lebovitz assigned to temporary duty to Paris for approximately five days duration per paragraph 1, Special Order 78, Hq. XIX Corps, dated 25 March 1945.

Major Lawrence A. Green and Captain Herbert M. Lebovitz returned from temporary duty to Paris to duty on 31 March 1945.

Major Ashby I. Lohse and Major Russell L. Smith assigned to temporary duty to Paris for approximately five days duration per paragraph 1, Special Order 71, Hq. XIX Corps, dated 18 March 1945.

Major Ashby I. Lohse and Major Russell L. Smith returned from temporary duty at Paris to duty on 23 March 1945.

Captain Rodney B. Phillippay was seriously wounded in action on the 28th March while on an inspection at the 823 Tank Destroyer Battalion when an enemy mine exploded at his



feet as a result of a tank running over it.

Captain Rodney B. Phillippy was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service from 23 February to 28 March 1945 per General Order 71, Hq. XIX Corps dated 30 March 1945. Captain Rodney B. Phillippy was awarded the purple heart on 29 March 1945 as a result of wounds received through enemy action.

Group arranged attachment of twelve trucks to 801 Tank Destroyer Battalion to have 3,000 rounds of 3 inch R/C shells.

The total expenditure of ammunition by Tank Destroyer Battalions attached to XIX Corps from 5 March 1945 to 1 April 1945 inclusive were:

- 1,860 rounds of 76 mm shells
- 5,262 rounds of 3 inch shells
- 1,376 rounds of 90 mm shells

Group obtained allocation of High-Velocity Armor Piercing, Star Shell 3 inch, and 76 mm and arranged distribution of same.

"During-----S-3 Report-----encountered."

During this period Group coordinated "the anti-tank defenses-----Paragraph 2(d) S-3 Report----March 1945."

Group continued to facilitate the replacement of combat losses of equipment for all Tank Destroyer Battalions in Corps-- coordinated and completed the conversion of the 802 Tank Destroyer Battalion to M-36 Tank Destroyers and the 643 Tank Destroyer Battalion to M-18 Tank Destroyers--secured approval for conversion of 801 Tank Destroyer Battalion to be effective on or about 5 April 1945.

Group allocated and distributed passes and furloughs to United Kingdom, Paris, Brussels and Valkenburg to Tank Destroyer Battalions in XIX Corps and 2nd Tank Destroyer Group.

Special Service Office of Group was quite active in supplying Tank Destroyer Battalions in Corps with movies,



clubmobiles, USO shows, council books and other special services.

The Special Service Office of Group also inaugurated a program of obtaining information on activities of Tank Destroyer Battalions in Corps and writing and releasing stories to Army papers and magazines and to Ninth Army Press Camp for release to newspapers in the United States.

This program has been quite successful to date with a number of feature stories and short stories appearing in these periodicals.

The combat efficiency of Group during this period was excellent.