

UNIT - HISTORY 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

JANUARY 1945

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY

b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 40 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 617

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: 2
Enlisted Men: None

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 46

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 42 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 571

d-g Stations, Marches, Campaigns and Battles:

The opening of the new Year found the Division beginning its bitterest, most costly battle to stem the on-rushing German forces in the Ardennes salient. The Division struck through the howling blizzards of Bastogne straight into the might of Germany's best troops. During the first two days the Division attacked to the N and NE gaining the high ground around Wardin and Michamps. Our attack toward Arioncourt was beaten off and our troops in Michamps were driven out by strong counterattacks. The Division straightened out its lines and withdrew to shorten its sector. For four days, 4-8, the Division held its lines against strong infantry and armored attacks supported by large concentrations of mortar, artillery and Nebelwerfer fire. On the 9th the Division renewed its attack again in conjunction with the 35th Infantry Division. Through the 14th the Division continued its attacks against very strong resistance clearing the towns of Wardin, Mageret, and Benonchamps and the woods east of Wardin and Benonchamps. The 14th-17th saw elements continuing to advance to the N and NE capturing Oubourcy, Arioncourt, and the high ground SW of Longvilly. After regrouping and organizing the attack was renewed on the 20th. In two days the Division advanced rapidly through Kroine, Crendal, Lullange, Hoffelt, Hachiville, Weiler, Asselborn, and Basbellain. Troisvierges was taken and then the attack swung east to secure the "Sky Line Drive". Wilwerdange, Holler, and Breidfeld fell in the push east. On the 26th and 27th elements of the 90th Division relieved the Sixth and the Sixth went into the line just west of the Our River. Through the end of the month the Division held its defensive positions and carried on its rehabilitation program to bring the fighting efficiency back up to normal.

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January

A Company

- 1 Company A (-) was attached to Combat Command A and supported the attack taking Neffe and the high ground E of Mageret. Company A destroyed 2 MK V tanks, 1 SP gun, and 1 armored car. The 3rd platoon was assigned to Combat Command B.
- 2-3 Company A attachments:
1st platoon - TF Brown - CC"A"
2nd platoon - CC"A"
1st section - Troop D, 86 Cav.Sq.
2nd section - TF Britton
3rd platoon - TF Kennedy - CC"B"
The company assisted in clearing Wardin and the surrounding woods around the town. Helped hold positions on the high ground surrounding Wardin.
- 4 Company A helped Combat Command A repulse a strong counter-attack - 1 MK V and 1 MK IV tank were destroyed.
- 5 Enemy counterattacks continued with a loss of 1 MK VI, 1 US M-4, and 1 unidentified tank to A Co's guns. Three additional tanks were later verified as destroyed.
- 6-8 Enemy counterattacks continued in force.
- 9 1st platoon attached to TF Hannum and supported the attack on the high ground to the east of Wardin.
- 10 Platoons on line in the Division zone.
- 11 The Company supported Combat Command A's attack to the NE.
- 12 1st platoon of A Company reassigned to TF Brown. Company A aided the Command in retaking Wardin and clearing the strategic surrounding territory.
- 13 The third platoon entered Mageret with Combat Command B and helped clear the town.
- 14 New attachments:
3rd platoon - TF Wall - Combat Command B
2nd platoon - Combat Command reserve
A Company aided in clearing the woods E of Wardin and the town of Benonchamps and in securing the high ground NE of Mageret.
- 15 3rd platoon supported the attack on Arioncourt and destroyed 1 SP gun near Arioncourt.
- 16 The company supported the Command's attack N and NE to capture Longvilly.
- 17-20 Defensive positions were held in preparation for renewal of the attack. Attachments for the attack.
1st platoon - TF Lagrew - Combat Command A
2nd platoon - TF Britton - Combat Command A
3rd platoon - Reserve Command
- 21-24 Elements of Company A supported Combat Command A as the Division attack drove forward. Troine, Crendal, Hullange, Hoffelt, Weiler, Asselborn, and Mon Beck fell to the Command. As the attack shifted east Hullange, Drinklange, Wilwerdange, and Binsfeld fell to the assault of Company A and elements of Combat Command A.

January

25-26

On the night of 25-26 Company A supported TF Britton and TF Lagrew in taking Hofler and Breidfeld.

27-31

Company under Battalion control in Reserve Command at Schimpach.

B Company

2

Company B supported Combat Command A's advance and helped beat off strong counterattacks. 2 MK V tanks were destroyed by B Company.

Attachments for B Company were:

1st platoon - TF Britton - Combat Command A

2nd platoon - TF La Grew - Combat Command A

3rd platoon - TF Brindle - Reserve Command

3

Company B supported Combat Command A's limited objective attack S of Wardin. Company B destroyed 2 Mk V, 2 Mk IV, 1 SP gun, 1 AT gun, and 1 truck in the day's action.

4-8

The Company continued to fight off strong counterattacks by the enemy, 1 Mk VI being destroyed.

9

The 2nd platoon supported the attack by TF Hannum by making a feint in the vicinity of Wardin.

11-13

B Company supported the attack by Combat Command A SW of Wardin and later in taking the town of Wardin itself. The first platoon destroyed 1 SP gun in the vicinity of Wardin. The 3rd platoon relieved the 2nd platoon, with TF Lagrew.

14-16

Company B supported Combat Command A as the Division began to move forward. Benonchamps and Longvilly fell in the advance.

17

In repulsing a counterattack aimed at Combat Command A B Company destroyed 2 Mk VI and 1 Mk V tanks.

21-26

After a short rest B Company joined Combat Command B to continue the attack. The following attachments were made

1st platoon - Combat Command B reserve

2nd platoon - TF Kennedy - Combat Command B

3rd platoon - TF Root - Combat Command B

Company B continued to support Combat Command B in its advance through Basbellaine and on N and E to Weiswampach.

28-30

B Company assisted in setting up a defensive line west of the Our River.

January

C Company

1

The following attachments were made in C Company:

1st platoon - TF Davall - Combat Command B

2nd platoon - TF Wall - Combat Command B

Company C (-) - Combat Command "B" reserve

C Company supported Combat Command B's attack NE of Bastogne through Mageret; 2 AT guns were knocked out.

2-3

C Company supported elements of Combat Command B in attacking NE through Oubourey and Michamps and in repelling counterattacks near Michamps.

4

A strong counterattack against TF Wall was beaten off with a destruction of 2 Mk V tanks and 6 SP guns.

January
5-10

Company C aided Combat Command B in defending its sector of the Division Zone. 8 major counter-attacks were thrown back the night of the 5th - 6th. The 2nd platoon destroyed 1 Mk VI tank before Bixory. All available guns were being used on the line. New attachments:

1st platoon - TF Alexander - CT Byrne
2nd platoon - TF Kennedy - Combat Command B
3rd platoon - TF Alexander - CT Byrne

- 13-15 Platoons of C Company pushed off with their task forces as the attack started again. C Company aided in taking Mageret and the high ground beyond Arloncourt, and Oubourcy. 5 half tracks and 1 SP gun were knocked out in the assault on Oubourcy. In taking Arloncourt 26 prisoners were captured and 3 MG nests were knocked out.
- 16-17 All platoons of C Company continued to support their units as the Division advance continued. East of Arloncourt 1 75 mm AT gun was knocked out by the 2nd platoon.
- 18-20 Defensive positions held by all platoons. 1st and 3rd platoons with CT Miltonberger and 2nd platoon with A Company 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion.
- 21-23 Company C supported the general advance, aiding in taking Hachiville and Basbellain.
- 28-31 Company C moved into defensive position at Hupperdingen and Heinersheid. The last of the month saw all units in Kleinoscheid under battalion control.

January

Reconnaissance Company

During the month of January 1 platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to Division Trains for security. Another platoon guarded the bridge leading E out of Bastogne most of the month.

Enemy casualties were:

5 MK VI tanks
12 MK V tanks
3 MK IV tanks
1 M 4 tank U.S./
5 Unidentified tanks
12 SP guns
3 AT guns
1 Truck
1 Armored car
4 MG
4 Vehicles
32 Prisoners

i. Losses in action, officers and men:

Officers:

1st Lt. Ridyard C. Sloan, 01822916, KIA, 9 Jan 45
1st Lt. Kent C. Rogers, 01825492, LWA, 103d,
Evac Hosp, 2 Jan 45

Enlisted Men:

Sgt Gerald J. Amos, 6583032, KIA, 13 Jan 45
Tec 5 John H.V.W. Cox, 3523138, KIA, 10 Jan 45
Sgt John E. Jonson, 38083134, KIA, 1 Jan 45
Sgt Chester R. Atwell, 36050599, 103d Evac Hosp,
7 Jan 45
Pfc Walter L. Morrissett, 31137428, LWA, 5 Jan 45
Cpl Anton H. Matzen, 37127547, LWA, 110th Evac Hosp,
8 Jan 45
Sgt Wilfred M. Sturm, 37019868, LWA, 7 Jan 45
Sgt Kenneth Williams, 39081031, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
13 Jan 45
Pfc Raymond L. White, 38082037, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
13 Jan 45

Tec 5 Oscar M. Burham, 38177333, LIA, 39th
 Evac Hosp, 16 Jan 45
 Pfc Richard De L. Parker, 18096886, LWA, 21 Jan 45
 Cpl Lee B. Curtis, 32141056, LIA, 624 Clearing Co.,
 25 Jan 45
 Cpl Leo E. Reich, 39387069, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp,
 2 Jan 45
 Tec 5 Melvin S. Thorin, 37256411, LWA, 35th
 Evac Hosp, 2 Jan 45
 Sgt Edward E. Malone, 39387142, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp,
 2 Jan 45
 Pfc William E. Enyard, 36060096, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp
 2 Jan 45
 Pvt Anthony Festillo, 36771245, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp,
 2 Jan 45
 Pvt Edgar T. Wright, 19062968, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp,
 2 Jan 45
 Pvt Michael Lalley, 6520025, LWA, 110th Evac Hosp,
 2 Jan 45
 Tec 5 Edwin A. Bettinelli, 39844370, SIA, 103d
 Evac. Hosp, 7 Jan 45
 Pfc Leonard E. Ziembra, 32288388, LIA, 110th Evac Hosp,
 7 Jan 45
 Pvt James A. Kauffman, 15078106, LWA, 101th
 Evac Hosp, 10 Jan 45
 Pvt John J. Donahue, 31029482, LWA, 17 Jan 45
 Tec 4 Larry Graham, 6567039, LEA, 110th Evac Hosp,
 18 Jan 45
 Sgt Emory M. Triggs, 6297701, LWA, 104th Evac Hosp,
 9 Jan 45
 Pvt Louis H. Hoffman, 42102925, SWA, 104th Evac Hosp,
 9 Jan 45
 Cpl Frank J. Schaff, 37020338, SWA, 1 Jan 45
 Pvt Carl F. Dadman, 31241317, SWA, 1 Jan 45
 Pvt James J. Holland 36312410, LWA, 1 Jan 45
 Pvt Edwin J. Loftesness, 39386807, LWA, 1 Jan 45
 Pfc Daniel Farina, 33278446, LWA, 1 Jan 45
 Tec 5 John Chinn, 39202767, SWA, 16 Field Hosp,
 2 Jan 45
 Pfc Lawrence J. Sicking, 38096267, LWA, 103d
 Evac Hosp, 2 Jan 45
 Pfc Clarence E. Reinhart, 36247323, LWA, 110th,
 Evac Hosp, 8 Jan 45
 Tec 4 Cecil W. Thrall, 39680882, LWA, 110th
 Evac Hosp, 16 Jan 45
 Pvt Romolo J. Grappone, 32708388, LEA, 103d
 Evac Hosp, 21 Jan 45
 Pvt Roger J. Jablon, 36678943, LEA, 101th Evac Hosp,
 20 Jan 45
 Pfc John E. Dalton, 35646849, LEA, 21 Jan 45
 Sgt Royce W. Hall, 37205083, LWA, 107th Evac Hosp,
 24 Jan 45
 Pfc William A. Sontag, 35528159, LWA, 15 Jan 45
 Pfc Walter Jankowski, 37397158, LIA, 824th Med
 Clearing Co, 25 Jan

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

A distinguished Service Cross was awarded the following for extraordinary heroism in action per G.O. 26, Hdqtrs. Third United States Army, 31 Jan. 1945:

Sergeant Robert Hansen jr., A Company
 On 12 November 1944, during furious fighting near MAMY, France, the tank destroyer which Sergeant HANSEN commanded was hit and disabled by enemy fire, and the crew was forced to dismount. Upon locating the source of enemy fire, Sergeant HANSEN bravely remounted his burning vehicle and, unassisted,

fired the 76 mm antitank gun until the destroyer was again hit and demolished. Then, braving the intense enemy fire, he attempted to go to the aid of the crew members of another disabled destroyer but was knocked unconscious by an exploding shell. Sergeant HANSEN's courageous determination to destroy the enemy, and his conspicuous heroism and supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.

UNIT - HISTORY 603D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

FEBRUARY 1945

- a. Original Unit:
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 42 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 571
 - (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: 1
Enlisted Men: 10
 - (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: None
 - (4) At end of period:
Officers: 43 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 581

d-g Stations, Marches, Campaigns, Battles:

During the month of February the Sixth Armored Division crossed the Our River and assaulted the Siegfried Line penetrating deep into Germany. On the 6th the Division began the attempt to cross the raging Our River. After a number of failures a bridgehead was established across the river W of Dahlen, the first man of the Division entering Germany at 0650 on the 7th. From 7th to 10th the troops E of the river defended the bridgehead while bridges were being built to bring across the armor. From the 10th to the 20th the Division built up its strength across the river, consolidated bridgeheads and positions, carried on intensive reconnaissance, and in general planned for the attack on the Siegfried Line. While Combat Command A feinted an assault across the river in its sector as a diversionary measure, the main assault was made in the bridgehead area on February 20th at 0645. The town of Dahlen, first German town to fall, was taken by 0745 the 21st. By the 24th the Division had cleared its section of the Siegfried Line, captured some 30 towns, and stabilized their position west of the Prum River. On the 27th the Prum was crossed and the offensive to the east renewed again.

February

A Company

- 10 Company A was attached to Combat Command B
1st and 3rd platoon with 50th A I B
2nd platoon with 9th A I B
- 11 The 3rd platoon crossed the Our River with the 50th Armored Infantry Battalion. 1st platoon was in position at Kalhorn with the 50th.

- 14 2nd platoon relieved the 3rd platoon across the Our River
- 18 The 3rd platoon relieved the 2nd platoon.
- 19 New assignments for the assault on the Siegfried Line.
 1st platoon with TF Ward
 2nd platoon with TF Britton
 3rd platoon with TF Brown
- 20 The second platoon of Company A supported TF Brown in taking the high ground in the vicinity of Freidrecksseif and Langfuhr. The 2nd platoon aided in taking the high ground near Korschilt and Dahlen.
- 21-27 A Company supported Combat Company A in cleaning up between the Our and Prum Rivers and took defensive positions west of the Prum.
- 28 One platoon crossed the Prum with TF Brindle and another aided TF Ward in establishing a bridgehead.
- B Company
- 7 Company B was attached to the 17th Airborne Division for defense of their sector.
- 11 Company B relieved from attachment to 17th Airborne Division and joined Combat Command A.
- 20 Company B supported Combat Command A in its diversionary attack west of the Our River.
- 23 One platoon of B Company fired at pillboxes across the Our River near Eisenbach.
- February
- C Company
- 13 The following disposition of C Company was made:
 3rd platoon - relieved 2nd platoon Company B
 1st platoon - 69th Tank Battalion
 Platoons occupied defensive positions W of the Our River.
- 20 Company C supported the diversionary attack by Combat Command A west of the Our.
- 22 The 2nd platoon crossed the Our with TF Kennedy and assisted in taking Preischeid and Oliverhof.
- 23 The first platoon fired at pillboxes across the Our from positions at Dodershausen.
- 28 The 3rd platoon supported TF Brown in taking the high ground east of Lunebach.
- Reconnaissance Company
- 1 1st platoon guarding Combat Command A trains at Niederwampach. 2nd platoon made a night patrol to the Our River to determine the size of the river.
- 2 The 2nd platoon made another patrol to the Our in search of a possible crossing point near Dahlen.
- 9 2nd platoon was guarding the bridge across the Our River and carrying mortar ammunition across,
- 13 The pioneer platoon was given the mission of manning three observation posts for Combat Command A west of the Our River.

- 15 Pioneer platoon began removing AT mines and setting out trip flares in the 15th and 69th Tank Battalion zones.
- 20 Pioneer platoon released from the OP's but continued clearing minefields to the end of the month.

Enemy casualties were:

30 Pillboxes
15 Prisoners

i. Losses in action, officers and men:

Officers:

1st Lt. Julien P. Müller, 01825700, LIA, 101st
Evac Hosp, 23 Feb 45

Enlisted Men:

Tec 4 Emilio L. Padillo, 38103358, LWA, 101st
Evac Hosp, 14 Feb 45
Cpl Leo B. Edmondson, 37180581, LWA, 14 Feb 45
Pfc Abraham C. Stabile, 32115922, LWA, 109 Evac Hosp,
22 Feb 45.

UNIT - HISTORY 603D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

MARCH 1945

- a. Original Unit:
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 43 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 581
- (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 7
- (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: 4
Enlisted Men: None
- (4) At end of period:
Officers: 39 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 588

d-g Stations, Marches, Campaigns and Battles:

During the latter part of February the Division established and enlarged a bridgehead across the Prum River. The Corps mission was to seize the high ground west of the Kyll River, effect a junction with the XII Corps near Densborn, and prepare to continue the advance east. The Division's first objective was to seize a bridgehead across the Nims River. By the 3rd a bridge at Schönecken had been captured intact, the bridgehead secured and contact made with the 4th Infantry Division on the north. The entire Division was relieved for the first time in 221 days of fighting on March 4th and passed to SHAEF reserve. On March 8th the Division was assigned to the Seventh Army. The Division moved south to the vicinity of Vie-Sur-Seille where it was placed in XV Corps reserve. The mission assigned the Division was to exploit the XV Corps breakthrough, secure the exits to the Rhine plain at Bad Burkheim, Grunstadt and Dereisen, to seize the west bank of the Rhine, and secure a bridge across the Rhine. Combat Command A pushed through the XXI Corp's area and the remainder of the Division through the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions on the 19th of March. By the 21st of March the Division had reached the Rhine River at Rhine-Durkheim. On the 23rd March the Division was reassigned to the Third U.S. Army, XX Corps. On the 25th the Division, now under the XII Corps crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim and continued the attack to the northeast. The Corp's plan was to exploit the breakthrough across the Rhine by using the 4th Armored Division on the right and the 6th Armored Division on the left. The Division drove north and ~~secured~~^{secured} a bridgehead across the Main-River in Frankfurt against very heavy resistance. The 5th Infantry Division later took over this bridgehead to capture the city.

The Sixth withdrew ^{and} crossed the Main over the 90th Division bridgehead near Dornigsheim and advanced rapidly north on the 28th. The drive continued forward about 50 kilometers on the 29th, many towns being captured and many prisoners being taken. On the 30th the Division received new orders to exploit the breakthrough to the NE towards Weimar and Leipzig. Against scattered resistance the advance continued E and NE to the Fulda River. Heaviest resistance was met at Alsfeld and Wabern. A bridgehead across the Fulda was established at Malsfeld as the month ended.

March

Company A

- 1 The following attachments were made with A Company units:
1st platoon with TF Ward - Combat Command B
2nd platoon with TF Brindle - Combat Command B
Company A (-) with Combat Command B.
The 1st platoon crossed the Frum River and aided TF Ward in advancing to N of Lierfeld.
- 2 Units of Company A established a roadblock at Frensfeld, supported the attack east from Lierfeld, and aided in taking the high ground N of Matzerath.
- 3 Company A supported the advance of Combat Command A to the Nims River.
- 4-15 Company A was released from assignment and prepared for further action. Movement from Rodershausen to Chambrey France was made on the 10th of March.
- 20-21 Company A, attached to the 86th Cavalry Combat Command, supported the 62 mile advance from Herbelsheim to Bockenheim. The unit arrived in Bordenheim on the 21st.
- 25-26 Company A crossed the River Rhine at Oppenheim and supported the advance N to the Main River at Frankfurt. 1 88 mm AT gun was destroyed in the advance.
- 29 The Company supported the rapid drive N toward Freiburg destroying 2 88 mm AT guns and 1 freight train of ammunition.
- 30 Company A continued to support the drive toward Kassel. 8 trucks with personnel and 3 88 mm AT guns were destroyed in the advance. At Wabern, Germany 1 SP gun was destroyed.

B Company

- 1-3 B Company was attached to Reserve Command - not active.
- 4-15 The following disposition was made with elements of B Company in Combat Command A:
1st platoon with 9th Armored Infantry
2nd platoon -/section with 15 Tk Battalion
/section with 86 Cavalry Squadron
3rd platoon - 15th Tank Battalion
- 20-21 Company B supported the advance of Combat Command A for 75 miles from the vicinity of Sarreguemines to the west bank of the Rhine River near Rhein-Burkheim.

- 22 The 1st platoon fired across the Rhine destroying 1 river charge, 1 machine gun nest, and 1 observation post.
- 25 Company B crossed the Rhine in the vicinity of Oppenheim, below Frankfurt.
- 26-30 Company B supported the drive of Combat Command A into Germany and east toward Kassel.

C Company

- 1 The 3rd platoon of C Company was attached to TF Brown of Combat Command A. The platoon assisted in the capture of Eilscheid and Dachscheid.
- 3 The third platoon supported TF Brown in securing a bridgehead over the Nims River south of Wetzeldorf.
- 15 The following assignments were made in C Company for future operations:
- 1st platoon with 69th Tank Battalion - Combat Command B
 - 2nd platoon with 44th Infantry Battalion - Combat Command B
 - 3rd platoon 1st section with 69th Tank Battalion
2nd section with 44th Tank Battalion
- 20-21 Company C supported Combat Command B in its rapid advance from Raingen to Ebertsheim. Northwest of Zweibrücken enemy resistance was encountered. 1 88 mm AT gun in a pillbox and 1 150 mm field piece were destroyed by the third platoon. The platoon also assisted in destroying a horse drawn column of 10 vehicles.
- 25 Company C crossed the Rhine River in the vicinity of Oppenheim below Frankfurt.
- 26 The first platoon destroyed 1 MK V tank north of Waldorf.
- 21-31 Company C supported the Command in its drive north across the Main River and east toward Kassel.

Enemy casualties were:

- 1 MK V tank
- 1 SP gun
- 8 AT guns
- 1 Arty gun
- 1 Pillbox
- 1 River barge
- 1 MG
- 1 Ammunition train
- 70 GP vehicles
- 97 Prisoners

1. Losses in action, Officers and men:

Officers:

- 1st Lt. Edward Snyder, 01822388, KIA, 27 March 45
 - 1st Lt. James A. Foster, 01822388, LWA, 30 March 45
 - 1st Lt. Oran M. Long, 01030687, 109th Evac Hosp, 30 Mar 45
 - 2nd Lt. Hal B. Day, 02000117, SWA, 20 March 45
 - 1st Lt. Kent C. Rogers, 01825492, SWA, 21 March 45
 - Lt. Col Clarence D. McCurry, 0359032, MIA, 29 March 45
- Note: (MIA to dY 4 April 45) (Officer carried as MIA & Asgd on this form)

Enlisted Men:

- Tec 4 Ignatius M. Rokosz, 36355056, KIA, 31 March 45
- Pfc Frank J. Koch Jr, 3386352, KIA, 29 March 45
- Pfc Sidney A. Poindexter, 6376155, KIA, 29 March 45
- Tec 5 David B. Finch, 35043194, KIA, 30 March 45
- Pfc 27mm Artillery, 36567145, KIA, 31 March 45

Pfc Frank L. Bartz, 16000046, KIA, 29 March 45
Cpl Robert H. Moore, 35097938, LWA, 31 March 45
Pfc Charles E. Jacobs, 33178101, LWA, 31 March 45
Pvt Henry R. Farun, 31413219, LWA, 30 March 45
Pfc Paul L. Wheeler, 17000713, LWA to 35th Evac Hosp.
31 March 45
Pfc Charles E. Carper, 12165512, LWA, 109th Evac Hosp
30 March 45
Tec 5 Lawrence J. Beckensten, 12165512 LWA, 109
Evac Hosp, 30 March 45
Pfc Mariano Ortega jr. 38070209, LWA, 8 March 45
Sgt John H. York, 38095801, LWA, 23 March 45

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

Silver Stars were awarded the following for gallantry in action per G. O. 49, Headquarters, 6th Armored Division, 10 March 1945:

First Lieutenant Edward Snyder, B Company
For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Warden, Belgium, on 3 January 1945. During an enemy counter-attack, he displayed great courage and resourcefulness in aggressively supporting the attack, continually racing from flank to flank to fire on enemy tanks. When orders to withdraw were given, he remained in position to cover the withdrawal of our tanks and infantry, and under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire, left his tank destroyer to assist in evacuating a wounded soldier. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Private First Class George W. Greek, jr.
For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Arloncourt, Belgium on 15 January 1945. Seeing a wounded soldier about fifty yards ahead of the Destroyer in which he was riding, private First Class Greek voluntarily dismounted and crawled to the aid of the wounded man. Reaching his comrade's side, he was fired upon by an enemy machine gun and he immediately returned the fire with his carbine and permanently silenced the machine gun and he immediately returned the fire with his carbine and permanently silenced the machine gun. He then rendered first aid to the wounded man and dragged him through a hail of enemy fire to safety. His gallant action and complete disregard for his own safety were instrumental in the saving of his comrade's life and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

UNIT - HISTORY 603D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945

- a. Original Unit:
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 39 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 588
 - (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 18
 - (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: 5
Enlisted Men: None
 - (4) At end of period:
Officers: 34 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 606

d-g Stations, Marches, Campaigns and Battles:

At the beginning of the month the Sixth Armored Division was given the mission of capturing Erfurt and Weimar. The Division crossed the Mulda River at Malsfeld and continued to advance N and E to the Wehre River. The Division continued on to Gross-Burschla where a bridgehead across the Werra River was gained. Fanning out to the east, columns entered Mühlhausen at six different points to capture the city. The Division paused for a short while in the vicinity of Mühlhausen to regroup and continue east. During this period a task force was sent NW to contact the 76th Division and break the stubborn resistance of the Germans facing the 76th. On the 11th the Division pushed east again for a total of 60 miles, liberating 3,000 allied POWs and overrunning the infamous camp of Buchenwald with its 21,000 political prisoners. 3 bridgeheads across the Saale River were secured as the push continued. At the Weisse-Elster River and in Zeitz stubborn resistance from small arms and AAA fire was met on the 12th and 13th. On the 14th the Division broke the Weisse-Elster River defense and pushed 25 miles east to the Zwick-Mulde River near Rochlitz. The advance continued east rapidly across the Zachopan River at Mittweida. Here the Division reached its limiting line and stopped pushing. Division changed from XX Corps to VIII Corps control on the 18th and withdrew on orders W of the Mulde River on the 25th.

April

- 1 Company A was attached to the 86th Cavalry Squadron and supported them in establishing a bridgehead over the Fulda River SE of Kassel.
- 3 The Company was attached to the 3rd Cavalry Squadron and joined them on the 5th of April.
- 5-11 The Company moved with the 3rd Cavalry Group through Ehrsten, Elbenberg, Grossolmerode, Volkerode, and Bollstadt without action.
- 12-13 Company A continued to march with the 3rd Cavalry Group through Magdola, Stadtroda, and Ronneberg.
- 14 The 1st and 3rd platoons screened the Corps south flank with the 43 Cavalry Squadron. At Schönhausen, on an A Company outpost, 2 German trucks and 2 Volks wagons were destroyed. About 19 SS men were killed and still more wounded.
- 16 Company A was released from attachment to the 3rd Cavalry Group and rejoined the Battalion at Seelitz.
- 19 The Company moved to Zeitz with the Battalion to maintain order within the Landkreis.
- 25 The Company and Battalion relieved of duties of maintaining order in the Landkreis.

C Company

April

- 1 Company C was attached to Combat Command B for the final push into Germany.
- 2 The 1st platoon knocked out 10 SP guns before Bad Sooden. The second platoon destroyed 5 AT guns, and the third platoon accounted for 4 SP guns and 2 wheeled vehicles.
- 3-4 Company C supported Combat Command B in its drive east through Eschwege, Mühlhausen, and on to Schottheim. One FW 190 was shot down by company headquarters.
- 5 The third platoon downed another FW 190 with 50 cal machine gun fire.
- 6-8 Company C aided in the capture of Welsbach and Neunheil. 1 wheeled vehicle and three self-propelled guns were knocked out SE of Schlotheim.
- 12 Company C supported the advance of Combat Company B to Audigust.
- 13-15 Company C supported the advance E of the Weisse Elster River and on across the Mulde River.
- 16-18 The Company assisted in outposting the N sector of the Division zone.
- 19 Company moved with Combat Command B to Zeitz to maintain order in the surrounding territory.
- 25 Duties and responsibilities for order in Zeitz passed on to the 87th Division.

April

B Company

- 1-2 Company B was assigned to Combat Command A with the following attachments:
1st platoon with 9th Infantry Battalion
2nd platoon with 68th Tank Battalion
3rd platoon with 15th Tank Battalion
- Company B accounted for 1 Tiger Royal, 9 Germans killed, and 17 captured. The 2nd platoon assisted in the capture of Zenner and some 250 Germans and destroyed 2 trucks.

April

- 3-8 Company B was relieved of all attachments with Combat Command A and assigned to the 80th Infantry Division. Company B joined the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion to reinforce them but saw no fighting.
- 9 B Company relieved from the 80th Infantry Division and assigned to the 86th Cavalry Squadron with Combat Command B.
- 10 Company B supported Combat Command B's drive from the vicinity of Langensalza east. 10 Germans were captured and 1 struck and 1 motorcycle knocked out. Company B was relieved from Combat Command B and attached to Combat Command A.
1st and 2nd platoons with 9th Infantry Battalion
3rd platoon with 86th Cavalry Squadron
- 11-14 Company B continued to support Combat Command A in the Division's drive across the Weisse Elster River and east to the Mulde River. 1 machine gun nest and 2 88 mm guns were destroyed.
- 15-16 Company B continued to support the Division as it moved east deeper into Germany. 2 88 mm guns and 4 wagons loaded with equipment were destroyed and an assist given in the capture of over 200 Germans.
- 17 Company reverted to Battalion control.
- 19 Company B moved to Zeitz with the Battalion to establish order in the Landkreis.
- 25 The Battalion was relieved of its duties in Zeitz.

Enemy casualties were:

1 MK VI tank
1 MK V tank
1 M 4 tank
31 SP guns
11 AT guns
3 Armored cars
2 MG
93 GP vehicles
1 Locomotive
2 FW 190
over 800 Prisoners

} 34AFV5

i. Losses in action, officers and men:

Officers:

2nd Lt. Walter R. Fick 01999995, SWA, 8 April 45

Enlisted Men:

Tec 4 James B. Cox, 35357849, KIA, 13 April 45
Sgt Lee M. Metroz, 38083351, KIA, 8 April 45
Pvt Harry B. Myers, 3691141, KIA, 8 April 45
Pvt Freeman Newman, KIA, 15 April 45
Tec 4 Richard C. Tatton, 6579116, LWA, 10 April 45
Tec 5 Morgan B. Phillips, 36247118, LWA, 10 April 45
Pfc Ralph G. Schoening, 36845564, LWA, 10 April 45
Pfc Dewey D. Bamberger, 16010508, LWA, 10 April 45
Cpl Paul E. Little, 38086565, LWA, 2 April 45
Tec 4 Jesse M. Carman, 7040749, LIA, 5 April 45
Tec 4 Robert L. Childress, 20423288, SWA, 30th Field Hosp, 15 April 45
Tec 5 Millard J. Foster, 38062751, SWA, 13 April 45
Sgt Hershel Tipton, 18068006, LWA, 13 April 45
Pfc Frank Senkulics, 32835161, LIA, 15 April 45
Pfc Alexander A. Kennedy, 32531556, LWA, 8 April 45
Pfc Thomas J. Melton, 34501560, LWA, 13 April 45
Pfc Frank W. Kiefel, 3451362, SWA, 30th Field Hosp, 9 Apr 45

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

A Silver Star was awarded the following for gallantry in action per G.O. 64, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 8 April 1945:

Sergeant Edmund J. Porter jr., A Company

For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Many, France on 12 November 1944. He left the comparative safety of his destroyer and ran across an open field swept by intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire to carry a seriously wounded comrade to safety. His gallant act was solely responsible for saving the man's life and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

Silver Stars were awarded the following for gallantry in action per G.O. 72, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 22 April 1945:

First Lieutenant Ronald W. Swart, B Company
Corporal Jose Quitana, B Company

A Silver Star was awarded the following for gallantry in action per G.O. 74, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 26 April 1945:

Private First Class Raymond L. White, A Company
For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Magaret, Belgium on 13 January 1945. During an attack his destroyer was hit by enemy bazooka fire, injuring himself and the other crew members. Ignoring his wounds he knocked out the enemy bazooka team with a hand grenade and continued to fire on the enemy infantrymen. His heroic determination to engage the enemy reflects high credit upon himself and the United States Army.

May

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

A Silver Star was awarded the following for gallantry in action per General Order 81, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 5 May 1945.

First Lieutenant Albert B. Farver, B Company---In the vicinity of Missma, Germany ~~on~~ on 15 April 1945 when light tanks were forced into defilade by a battery of dug-in, dual purpose guns, commanding the terrain over a radius of several miles; Lieutenant Farver with one other destroyer, engaged the entire enemy position. His brilliant movement and courageous exposure of his vehicle occupied the enemy until artillery fire could be brought to bear on the stronghold. By means of his bold approach he accurately located the guns and transmitted the information to the artillery, for fire direction until the dominating enemy defense had been neutralized. His tactical skill, aggressiveness, and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army.

The Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star was awarded to the following man per General Order 110, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 12 May 1945

Staff Sergeant Hugo V. Jerussi, C Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Groitzsch, Germany, on 13 April 1945. Staff Sergeant Jerussi successfully reconnoitered firing positions to bring effective fire upon fifteen enemy flak guns. Then, with disregard for his own personal safety, he extricated and evacuated two seriously wounded men from a disabled destroyer. Continuing to direct ~~the~~ the fire of the other tank destroyers he set a fine example for his men.

Per General Order 110 the following were awarded the Silver Star:

First Lieutenant Julien F. Muller, C Company---For gallantry in action in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany during the period 28 July 1944 to 24 February 1945. He has lead his platoon through many intense actions, accomplishing all missions assigned with a minimum loss of personnel and the loss of only one tank destroyer. On numerous occasions he left the comparative safety of his destroyer in order to make a foot reconnaissance, often picking out targets under heavy enemy fire. His cool courage and grim determination to close with and destroy the enemy was a constant inspiration to his men and was in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

First Lieutenant James Rhodes, B Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Holzhausen, Germany on 1 April 1945. He approached an enemy tank on foot and tossed an incendiary grenade on the engine, setting it on fire and forcing the crew to evacuate. During this entire action he was constantly exposed to fire from enemy infantry riding on the tanks and also to fire from our own troops. By his initiative, foresight, and coolness under fire, he was responsible for the destruction of an enemy tank and for the capture of a number of the enemy.

First Lieutenant Clayton M. Taylor, C Company---For gallantry in action in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany during the period 28 July 1944 to 25 February 1945. As a platoon leader and company commander, First Lieutenant Taylor risked his life many times under enemy

- 3 -

fire while directing the guns of his unit. Constantly disregarding his personal safety, his ~~ex~~ actions have been a source of inspiration to all under his command and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

Staff Sergeant Eugene C. Eshelman, C. Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Bad Sooten, Germany on 2 April 1945. When ten enemy self-propelled guns were sighted Technician Fourth Grade Eshelman made a foot reconnaissance and placed the destroyers of his unit in position to surround the enemy. In so directing the destroyer he narrowly missed death from machine gun bursts but continued in his mission. While manning a 50 caliber machine gun, he killed twenty enemy infantry and held his position while strafed and bombed by twenty-five or thirty enemy aircraft. Due to his personal courage and aggressiveness, all ten of the enemy guns were destroyed.

Staff Sergeant Hugo V. Jarussi, C Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Oubourcy, Belgium on 4 January 1945. With complete disregard for personal safety and in face of heavy artillery, anti-tank, and small arms fire he dismounted from his destroyer and on foot ~~ttt~~ led his platoon to firing positions from which it destroyed seven self-propelled guns and one tank, and repulsed a strong counter-attack. Staff Sergeant Jarussi's ~~#~~ conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

Sergeant Onel E. Deal, C Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Oubourcy, Belgium on 4 January 1945. In the face of artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, Sergeant Deal dismounted from his vehicle, reconnoitered for a firing position, and led his destroyer into ~~tt~~ a firing position from which he destroyed three self-propelled guns. While on foot he encountered and destroyed a bazooka team with his carbine. By his fearless actions Sergeant Deal was largely responsible for breaking up the enemy counter-attack.

Sergeant Cleo B. Wheeler, C Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Oubourcy, Belgium on 4 January 1945. With complete disregard for personal safety, he dismounted from his destroyer in the ~~tt~~ face of heavy artillery and small arms fire and led his destroyer into a firing position from which he destroyed seven self-propelled guns and one tank, thereby repulsing an armored counter-attack. His conduct was in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

Sergeant Kenneth Williams, S A Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Many, France on 12 November 1944. In an attempt to flank the town the two leading destroyers were hit, evacuated, by the survivors, who ran for cover. However, two of the men collapsed because of wounds and concussion and were unable to reach safety. Sergeant Williams left his position of safety and crossed seventy yards of open terrain under heavy enemy fire to carry one of the men to safety.

Technician Fourth Grade Grover V. Morgah, B Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Zenner, Germany on 30 March 1945. When his destroyer a direct hit in the

enabled his task force to pass a dangerous road junction and accomplish its mission.

The following were awarded Silver Stars per General Order 125, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 25 May 1945.

a Captain Leslie W. Kincaid, B Company---For gallantry in action in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany during the period 28 July 1944 to 1 April 1945. Captain Kincaid has trained and commanded a tank destroyer company which has accomplished all of its missions with a minimum loss to his organization and the loss of 29 enemy tanks and assault guns plus numerous personnel killed for the enemy. At Plouvich, France, when parts of a convoy were lost, he took a 1/4 ton vehicle and of his own volition searched for it through uncleared enemy territory, finally returning all vehicles to safety. His unselfish disregard for his own life and constant regard for the safety of his men have been inspirational to the men and officers of his command.

Sergeant Edward J. Smigielski, A Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Thonhausen, Germany on 14 April 1945. His destroyer had the mission of establishing an outpost on a road east of the town. A truck with twenty enemy soldiers approached to within fifty yards of the outpost before Sergeant Smigielski was able to identify them. He fired on them himself but his gun jammed. While his destroyer was firing on the enemy truck he grabbed another weapon and killed all the enemy who tried to escape. His quick action and gallant leadership were responsible for killing fifteen and wounding five of the enemy.

The following man was awarded the Silver Star per General Order 132, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 26 May 1945.

Corporal William F. Gilpin, B Company---For gallantry in action in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany during the period 28 July 1944 to 19 November 1945 and 25 February 1945 to 16 April 1945. When the lead tank was partially disabled, he dismounted in the face of enemy fire and directed his tank destroyer to a firing position, thereby eliminating the threat and saving the friendly tank and crew. On 26 October 1944 in Grenecey Forest, France when his destroyer was mired in a stream and was under heavy enemy artillery fire, Corporal Gilpin extricated the destroyer with the use of logs and then proceeded to tow two destroyers and three half tracks out of the stream. His constant disregard for personal danger reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

The following were awarded Silver Stars per General Order 143, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 30 May 1945.

First Lieutenant Asa L. Dodd, C Company---
First Lieutenant Benjamin S. Fogwill, G Company---
First Lieutenant Charles E. Yoeman, Reconnaissance Company
Second Lieutenant Hal B. Day, A Company---
First Sergeant Harvey R. Grice, Reconnaissance Company---
First Sergeant Clarence A. Sheefer, C Company---
Technical Sergeant John W. Patten, Headquarters Company---
Staff Sergeant Don V. Breinholt, B Company---
Staff Sergeant Edgar E. Sandeen, B Company---
Sergeant Harold A. Belcher, A Company---
Sergeant John B. Colmone, A Company---
Sergeant Eugene V. Deeke, A Company---
Sergeant William A. Gates, B Company---
Sergeant Harold H. Gullickson, A Company---

S
 Sergeant Walter H. Knippelmeyer, A Company---
 Sergeant George C. McCann, B Company---
 Sergeant Robert H. McCarthy, B Company---
 Sergeant Amos R. Munsterman, A Company---
 Sergeant Robert W. Podvin, Headquarters Company---# 603-2 Sec
 Sergeant Manuel Romero, C Company---
 Sergeant Ralph C. Stith, C Company---
 Sergeant Delmar C. Whiteman, A Company---
 Sergeant Stanley M. Wilder, Reconnaissance Company---
 Technician Fourth Grade William T. Dellinger, C Company--
 Technician Fourth Grade James E. Wilkins, C Company--
 Technician Fourth Grade Peter D. Weltman, Hdqtrs. Co.---
 Corporal Frank E. Alderman, B Company---
 Corporal Andrew H. Andersen, B Company---
 Corporal Clifford O. Jack, C Company---
 Corporal Albert J. Klinger, A Company---
 Technician Fifth Grade Lawrence J. Beckensten, Ren. Co.---
 Technician Fifth Grade Norbert Borowski, Hdqtrs. Co.----
 Technician Fifth Grade George E. Brittain, A Company---
 Technician Fifth Grade Justus E. Carmichael, Hdqtrs. Co.--
 Technician Fifth Grade Harold L. Simpson, Ren. Company---
 Technician Fifth Grade Fred L. Smith, Headquarters Co.---
 Technician Fifth Grade Carl S. Steinke, Ren. Company---
 Private First Class William E. Enyard, B Company---
 Private First Class Oswald J. Olson, B Company---
 Private First Class Frank Senkulics, C Company---
 Private Harold W. Libby, B Company,----
 Private Martin R. Raffaeli, B Company---

(SEE THE GENERAL ORDER FOR CITATION)

The following man was awarded a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star per General Order 146, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 31 May 1945.

C
 Corporal John B. Colmone, A Company---For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Fossieux, France on 23 September 1944. His platoon had lost three destroyers of its four and the fourth was without communications. He volunteered to ride in an exposed position on the destroyer to relay commands to his driver. In spite of wounds received in the attack he carried on his hazardous task until his destroyer was in a safe place. His daring courage in the face of enemy fire is in keeping with the highest military traditions.

The following man was awarded the Silver Star per General Order 146 as above.

Technician Fifth Grade Alton D. Sullivan, Medical Detachment---For gallantry in action in ~~the vicinity of Fossieux~~ France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany during the period 27 July 1944 to 21 April 1945. While under heavy artillery fire he went to the aid of several injured men, administered treatment, and evacuated them to the rear. His prompt treatment was responsible for saving their lives. He performed like deeds on other occasions, never thinking of his own safety when he could aid a wounded comrade. His gallant and heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Medical Department.