

4 January 1945



To Whom it May Concern:

Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, reported to me on the day of 13 December 1944 with the mission of placing direct fire on the town of Rohren, Germany to assist the attack of the 2D Infantry Division when they launched their attack against that town. The requirements as well as the grounds dictated emplacing their guns in a position in Hofen, Germany in an area that I had recommended previously to have occupied by a company of infantry, with the mission of counter-attacking by fire in case my center was penetrated by a hostile attack.

The unit moved up on the night of 13 December 1944 in an efficient manner to such an extent that although they have a large number of vehicles and heavy equipment the hostile forces never suspected that they had moved in and occupied the area. On the morning of 16 December 1944 the Hofen area was attacked by the Germans. This attack was preceded by a intense artillery, mortar, and rocket barrage. At 0525 and by 0600 the Germans were placing powerful search lights along our front line and attacking our positions with Infantry. By 0645 the Germans although they had suffered severe casualties had made a penetration in the center of my front lines. Because of the tactical location of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the penetration ran head long into some gun positions set up by the TD's. The members of Company "A", at this time, demonstrated that they were cool, efficient, and a well trained unit. They met the attack in such a manner that they supported my infantry by fire, killing a large number of Germans, and was a major factor in the capturing of 14 prisoners. This job was



so well done that I was not forced at any time to commit my reserve. Not only did they help stop the penetration, but they assisted also in restoring my main line. The members that participated in this counter-attack showed that they were courageous and had utter disregard for their own personal safety when fighting the enemy and accomplishing a mission which was necessary, but not their job.

On the morning of 18 December 1944, the Germans again attacked Hofen, Germany in increased strength and with a mission as before of taking this area at all costs. This attack started at 0430 in the morning without an artillery preparation as before but instead they attempted to penetrate our lines by stealth backed with force. By 0600 the fighting had become severe, Pressure was being increased on my right front supported by tanks, in my center an increasingly large number of infantry, and on my left front the heaviest force hit and at this place they were able to breach my lines temporarily 400 yards in width. Here again Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion proved that they were a first class fighting unit. They assisted in the defense of the area along my entire front, counter attacking by fire with both machine gun, rifle, and carbine where necessary, and assisting the Infantry in repelling the enemy by counter-attack when that was also necessary. Throughout the entire operation the job they did was a job of Infantry, and was not their mission.

They knew like the members of my battalion, that this area was to be held at all costs, regardless of the size or strength in number that the enemy threw at this position. And one of the major factors that enabled my unit to repel all attacks the Germans made a-

gainst Hofen, was the aid that Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion gave us. When it considered that I had to throw my own artillery on my front lines to the extent of five minute concentrations during the attack in three different areas, and that the size of the force that attacked this area was an Infantry Regt on the 16th and two new Regiments, what remained of the Regiment that attacked on the 16th, plus 10 tanks counted on the 18th, the courage, efficiency and fighting ability of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion assisting my battalion in repelling can not be overrated.

I feel that the unit carrying out a mission to which they were not assigned without orders, and were not trained for, deserve commendation.

McClelland Butler

McCLELLAND BUTLER
Lt. Col., Infantry
Commanding, 3d Bn, 395th Inf



Inclosure #3

HEADQUARTERS, 3d BATTALION
395TH INFANTRY

7 January 1945

SUBJECT: Unit Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 2d Division Artillery, APO 2, U.S.
Army.

1. I desire to commend Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion for outstanding service and efficient performance of duty for the period 13 December 1944 to 18 December 1944.

2. The detailed resume concerning this unit is attached hereto as an inclosure.



McCLERNAND BUTLER
Lt Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

1 Incl:

1 Resume of Act Co "A" 612 TD Bn



Inclosure #2

62
Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

APO 230, U.S. Army
18 January 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Presidential Unit Citation to
Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

TO : Commanding General, 2d Infantry Division, APO 2,
U.S. Army.

Under the provisions of War Department Circular No. 333 dated 22 December 1943 and Circular No. 2, Headquarters First United States Army dated 4 January 1945, Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, is recommended for a Presidential Unit Citation based on the following facts:

DETAILED RESUME:

On 13 December 1944 Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, under the command of 1st Lt. William S. Groff, Jr., moved from the battalion assembly area in the vicinity of Sourbrodt, Belgium to Hofen, Germany, reporting on arrival to Lt. Col. McClelland Butler, Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry Regiment. Company "A" was assigned the mission of placing direct fire on the town of Rohren, Germany to assist and support the attack of the 2nd Infantry Division when the division launched their attack against that town. The requirements as well as the terrain dictated emplacing the tank destroyer guns of Company "A" in position in the town of Hofen, Germany in an area that had been previously recommended by Lt. Col. Butler to have been occupied by a company of infantry. Company "A" was given a further mission of counterattacking by fire in the event that the center of the 395th Infantry Regiment sector was penetrated by a hostile attack.

Company "A" moved into position under the cover of darkness on the night of 13 December 1944 in an efficient manner to such an extent that although they had a large number of vehicles, heavy equipment and guns, the hostile forces never suspected that they had moved in and occupied the area to which they were assigned.

On the morning of 16 December 1944 the area surrounding the town of Hofen, Germany was ferociously attacked by the enemy. This attack was preceded by an intense artillery, mortar and rocket barrage, and between the hours of 0525 and 0600, the Germans were placing powerful searchlights along our front lines and generally attacking our positions with infantry. By 0645 hours the Germans, although they had suffered severe casualties,



had made an appreciable penetration in the center of the 395th Infantry Regiment sector. Due to the tactical location of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, this enemy penetration ran headlong into the gun positions established by Company "A".



The officers and enlisted men of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, demonstrated that they were a cool, efficient, disciplined and well-trained unit. They met the enemy attack in such a manner that they supported the foot troops of the 395th Infantry Regiment by fire, killing a large number of Germans and capturing numerous prisoners of war. During this encounter the third platoon of Company "A" took 18 prisoners of war and killed 10 enemy personnel, while the first platoon of Company "A" captured 3 Germans as well as 1 enemy machine gun nest and mortar position. One enlisted man of Company "A" was slightly wounded in action as a result of this engagement.

The members of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, fought the enemy in such a gallant and effective manner that the commanding officer of the 395th Infantry Regiment was not forced at any time to commit his reserve. Not only did Company "A" assist in stopping this determined enemy penetration, but they also assisted in restoring the infantry's main line of resistance. The officers and enlisted men of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion who participated in this counterattack demonstrated to all that they were courageous and an efficient fighting unit with utter disregard for their own personal safety when engaging the enemy and accomplishing a mission which was necessary even though that mission was one normally assigned to infantry and was not the primary mission of the tank destroyers.

On the morning of 18 December 1944 the Germans again attacked Hofen, Germany in increased strength and ferociousness with the mission as before of taking the area in and around Hofen, Germany at all costs. This new attack began at 0430 hours without an artillery preparation as before, but instead the enemy attempted to penetrate our friendly lines by stealth backed with force. By 0600 hours the fighting had increased in tempo and had become severe. Pressure was being increased on the 395th Infantry Regiment's right front supported by enemy tanks. In the center an increasingly large number of enemy infantry and on the Regiment's left front, the heaviest enemy force hit, and it was at this place that the enemy was able to breach our lines temporarily to a distance of 400 yards in width. Here again Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion proved to all that they were a superior and well-coordinated fighting team. They assisted in the defense of the infantry regiment's area along it's entire front, counter-attacking by fire with machine gun, rifle and carbine and assisting

the infantry in counterattacking when it was deemed necessary. Throughout the entire operation Company "A" was employed as infantry and fought with the courage of infantrymen, even though this was not their mission.

As the day progressed enemy artillery began to fall around the company positions. Approximately 500 rounds of enemy artillery fell in and around the company positions, knocking out one 3 inch gun and two 1/4 ton vehicles. In addition, one enlisted man was killed in action and one officer and three enlisted men wounded in action as a result of these engagements. The first platoon of Company "A" captured five prisoners of war and killed one enemy, while the third platoon killed one German of an estimated enemy regiment attacking force.

On 19 December 1944 the enemy again attacked with equal vigor and strength as on the morning of 18 December 1944 and were again successful in penetrating into the positions occupied by the platoons of Company "A". The members of Company "A" again exhibited a superior and spirited fighting ability and were successful in driving back the enemy and reestablishing the main line of resistance. In the course of this action one gun crew was surrounded by the enemy and eleven enlisted men of Company "A" were reported as missing in action. The first platoon of Company "A" succeeded in capturing eleven prisoners of war during this engagement.

Company "A" maintained their established positions in the vicinity of Hofen, Germany, being subjected to constant enemy small arms fire. On 21 December 1944 the enemy dropped paratroopers in the vicinity of Hofen and the second platoon of Company "A" killed one and captured one enemy paratrooper, while the third platoon killed four enemy paratroopers.


Company "A" remained in position at Hofen, Germany until 29 December 1944 at which time they were relieved by Company "A" of the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The members of Company "A" realized that this area in and around Hofen, Germany must be held at all costs, regardless of the size or strength in number that the enemy was able to hurl at their positions. One of the major factors that enabled the 395th Infantry Regiment to repel all attacks that the Germans made against Hofen was the aid that Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, gave to that organization. When it is considered that the commanding officer of the 395th Infantry Regiment was forced to throw his own artillery on his front lines to the extent of six five-minute concentrations during the attack in three different areas, and that the size of the enemy force that attacked this area on the 16th of December was one infantry regiment, and on the 18th of December two



new regiments, what remained of the regiment that had attacked on the 16th of December, plus ten tanks counted, the courage, efficiency and fighting ability of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, in repelling the enemy cannot be overlooked or overrated. A unit such as Company "A" carrying out a mission as infantry, to which they were not assigned, without orders and were not trained for, deserves high praise, commendation and recognition.

Due to the gallant stand and indomitable spirit displayed by the officers and enlisted men of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the northern arm of the German pincers aimed for Eupen, Belgium through Monschau, Germany was contained. Had the enemy offensive successfully overrun the positions of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the entire northern flank of the First United States Army would have been endangered, and the major supply depots in the vicinity of Eupen and Verviers threatened.


JOS. M. DEWLEY
Lt. Col., Infantry
Commanding



- 5 Incls:
Incl #1 - Proposed Citation.
Incl #2 - Letter of Commendation from Lt. Col. McClernand Butler, Commanding Officer, 3rd Bn, 395th Infantry Regiment.
Incl #3 - Statement of Lt. Col. McClernand Butler, concerning activities of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.
Incl #4 - Disposition overlay of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.
Incl #5 - Unit Journals of 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion from 13 December 1944 through 21 December 1944.

PROPOSED CITATION

During the period of 12 December 1944 to 29 December 1944 in the vicinity of Hofen, Germany, Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion distinguished itself by exhibiting outstanding courage and superior heroism in the presence of the enemy. The officers and men of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, by spirited and outstanding aggressiveness, were successful in preventing a breakthrough by the enemy in the sector occupied by the 3rd Battalion of the 395th Infantry Regiment. During the entire action the personnel of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion were employed in the role of infantry, one for which they were not trained nor to which assigned, fighting with the courage and spirit of infantrymen and being responsible for the capture of many enemy personnel and enemy materiel as well as the killing of numerous Germans. Their outstanding courage, bravery and discipline exhibited to all that this was a superior fighting unit and was instrumental in resisting the northern arm of the German pincer aimed for Eupen, Belgium through Monschau, Germany. Had the enemy offensive successfully overrun the positions of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the entire northern flank of the First United States Army would have been endangered, and the major supply depots in the vicinity of Eupen and Verviers threatened.



Inclosure #1

C O N F I D E N T I A L

AG 200.6 (J) (18 Jan 45)

Wrapper Ind.

EAA/wb

HEADQUARTERS 2D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO #2, U. S. Army, 6 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 99th Infantry Division, APO #449, U. S. Army.

The attached recommendation is forwarded without action by the Second Infantry Division Awards and Decorations Board inasmuch as Company A, 612 Tank Destroyer Battalion was a part of your command during the action for which citation is sought.

For the Commanding General:

00443

RECEIVED
HQ 99th INF DIV
FEB 10 1945

Earle A. Anderson

EARLE A. ANDERSON,
1st Lt., A. G. D.,
Asst. Adj. General.

1 Incl:

Recommendation for Presidential Unit Citation. Company A, 612 TD Battalion.

AG 200.6

2d W/Ind

JRA/aww

HEADQUARTERS 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 1149, U. S. Army, 10 February 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, 395th Infantry, APO 1149, U. S. Army.

For comment and return to Commanding General, V Corps through Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division.

By command of Major General LAUER:

MAILED
FEB 10 1945
HQ 99th INF DIV

John R. Achor
JOHN R. ACHOR,
Lt Col, AGD,
Adjutant General.



1 Incl: n/c

AG 200.6

3rd W/Ind

HEADQUARTERS, 3rd Battalion, APO 449, U. S. Army, 14 February 1945

TO: Commanding General, V Corps

THROUGH: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division.

1. It is my opinion that Company A, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion is worthy of being cited for the outstanding and efficient performance of duty for period indicated in the attached report.

2. It is requested, however, that in the letter of recommendation for Presidential Unit Citation, so much of the letter that reads "395th Infantry Regiment" should be amended to read "Third Battalion, 395th Infantry Regiment". Reason for the necessary changes is due to the fact that Company A, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the Third Battalion, 395th Infantry.

McClernand Butler

McCLERNAND BUTLER
Lt Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

AG 200.6

4th W/Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 395TH INFANTRY, APO #449, U. S. Army 15 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division, APO 9, U. S. Army.



For the Commanding Officer:

William R. Feaster

WILLIAM R. FEASTER
Capt., Infantry
Personnel Officer

210:5-Misc. GNMEQ 5th W/Ind. /ceo
HQ 9 INF DIV APO 9 9 Pm NY NY 27 Feb 1945

TO: CO 47 Infantry APO 9 US Army.

1. For remark and recommendation.
2. Records this headquarters indicate that Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer was attached to your regiment, through the 395th Infantry Regiment, from 20 December 1944 to 29 December 1944..

By command of Major General CRAIG:

J. R. Hutchison

J. R. Hutchison
Lt. Col. A.G.D.
Adjutant General

FILES

1 Incl. n/c

6th W/Ind. GWS/jph
HEADQUARTERS 47TH INFANTRY, APO #9, U.S. Army, 6 March 1945.



TO: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division, APO #9, U.S. Army.

1. Records of this office indicate that Company 'A', 612th Tank Destroyer unit was attached to this organization effective upon our arrival in the Monschau-Hofen-Kalterherberg area at 2000, 17 December 1944, hence we are unfamiliar with any actions prior to the above time. This unit was an integral part of the defenses of the 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry, in the Hofen sector and as such played an important part in the defenses of that area during the critical phases of the German breakthrough. This office is thoroughly in accord with the very fine commendation made by the Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry, who had intimate knowledge of the actions of Company 'A', 612th Tank Destroyer throughout its employment. To single out one particular unit for a citation, however, would undoubtedly be unfair to the other units participating in the defense, since all organizations were involved in disrupting enemy thrusts into the position.

2. It is recommended that this company not be singled out for a unit citation in view of its small losses, and the fact that other units also withstood the determined enemy attacks with equal courage and spirit.



George W. Smythe

GEORGE W. SMYTHE
Colonel, 47th Infantry,
Commanding.

1 Incl: n/c

CONFIDENTIAL

210.5-Misc. GNMEQ 7th W/Ind.
HQ 9 INF DIV APO 9 % Pm NY NY 25 March 1945

/ceo

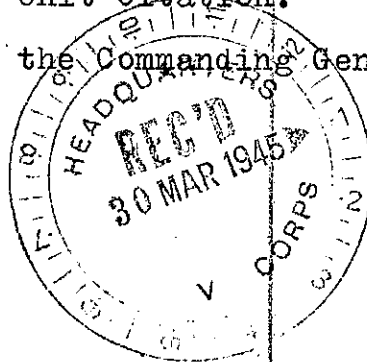
TO : CO 395 Infantry APO 449 US Army.

THRU: CG V Corps APO 305 US Army.

1. Disapproved.

2. Although the performance of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, during the period 13 December 1944 to 29 December 1944, is worthy of high commendation, it is not considered sufficiently outstanding to merit the award of the Distinguished Unit Citation.

For the Commanding General:



J. R. Hutchison

J. R. Hutchison
Lt. Col. A.G.D.
Adjutant General



FILES
9006

1 Incl. n/c

CONFIDENTIAL

200.6-Co A, 612th TD Bn 8th W/Ind

HQ., V CORPS, APO 305, 5 April 1945.

TO: Commanding General, First US Army, APO 230.

1. Not favorably considered.

2. It is believed that the performance of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, while meritorious, is not sufficient to justify the award of the unit citation.

For the Commanding General:

Edward W. Skelly

EDWARD W. SKELLY,
Lt. Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.
RECORDED



1 Incl-
n/c

200.6 (A)

9th W/Ind.

8 APR 1945

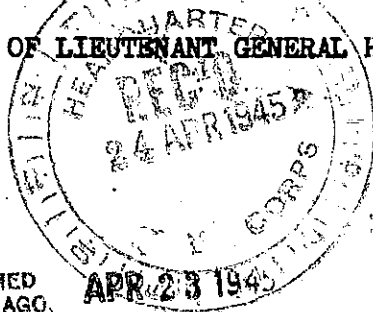
HEADQUARTERS FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY, APO 230,

TO: Commanding General, V Corps.

1. Not favorably considered.

2. It is the finding of the Awards and Decorations Board which convened at APO 230 in accordance with letter Headquarters European Theater of Operations U. S. Army, file AG 200.6 MPGA, Subject: "Decorations Boards", 22 March 1944, to consider the recommendation for citation of Company "A", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, that the acts described in the recommendation, while meritorious, are insufficiently so to justify unit citation.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HODGES:



S. E. Senior

S. E. SENIOR,
Colonel, A.G.D.
Ass't Adjutant General
RECORDED

1 Incl. n/c

DISPATCHED
1st ARMY AGO,

APR 23 1945

200.6(AG)-Co A, 612th TD Bn 10th W/Ind

HQ., V CORPS, APO 305, 26 April 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division, APO 9.

For your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:



Wesley F. Frels
WESLEY F. FRELS,
2d Lieut., A.G.D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

1 Incls-
n/c

210.5-Misc GNMEQ 11th W/Ind. /ceo
HQ 9 INF DIV APO 9 % Pm NY NY 28 April 1945

TO: CG 99 Inf Div APO 99 US Army.

1 Incl. n/c

J. M. A.
J. M. A.

FILES

RECEIVED
14
HQ 99th INF DIV



210.5 12th W/Ind. OWD/LPS/em
HEADQUARTERS 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 449, U S Army, 15 May 1945.

THROUGH: Commanding Officer, 395th Infantry.

TO : Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry.

For information and return direct to Commanding Officer, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL LAUER:

L. P. Sullivan
L. P. SULLIVAN
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

MAILED

16 MAY 1945
HQ 99th INF DIV.

1 Incl: n/c

210.5 13th W/Ind TWD/jha
HEADQUARTERS 395TH INFANTRY, APO 449, U S Army, 16 May 45

TO: Commanding Officer, Third Battalion, 395th Infantry

For compliance with preceding indorsement

By order of Lt Col GRIFFIN:

Theodore W Donaldson
THEODORE W DONALDSON
CWO USA
Assistant Adjutant