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Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

APO 230, U.S. Army
1 May 1945

SUBJECT: History of 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion for Month of April 1945.

TO: Commanding General, V Corps, APO 305, U.S. Army.
(TDM Channels)

a. Original Unit.
Completed.

b. Changes in Organization.
This organization continued to be attached to V Corps,
3rd TD Group, and 2d Infantry Division from 1 April to
27 April. Relieved from attachment to 3rd TD Group
V Corps on 27 April and attached to 1st TD Group VII
Corps. Attachment to 2d Infantry Division remained
unchanged.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
(1) At beginning of period - 38 officers, 1 warrant
officer, and 599 enlisted
men.
(2) At end of period - 36 officers, 1 warrant
officer, and 566 enlisted
men.
(3) Net change - Decrease of 2 officers and 33 enlisted
men.

d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.
(1) On 1 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP
departed at 0810 hrs from positions at Nomburg,
Germany, 6994377, and travelled a distance of 61.8
miles to new positions at Sachsenhausen, Germany,
8991946, closing at 1340 hrs.
(2) On 6 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP
departed at 0630 hrs from positions at Sachsenhausen,
Germany, 8991946, and travelled a distance of 34
miles to new positions at Grebenstein, Germany,
161179, closing at 0905 hrs.
(3) On 8 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP
departed at 1525 hrs from positions at Grebenstein,
Germany, 161179, and travelled a distance of 21
miles to new positions at Dransfeld, Germany, 404246,
closing at 1545 hrs.
On 9 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1445 hrs from positions at Drunsfeld, Germany, 404246, and travelled a distance of 18.5 miles to new positions at Rittmarshausen, Germany, 647233, closing at 1630 hrs.

On 11 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1040 hrs from positions at Rittmarshausen, Germany, 647233, and travelled a distance of 25 miles to new positions at Sollstedt, Germany, 943166, closing at 1335 hrs.

On 12 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1150 hrs from positions at Sollstedt, Germany, 943166, and travelled a distance of 33.3 miles to new positions at Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, 342218, closing at 1705 hrs.

On 13 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1045 hrs from positions at Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, 342218, and travelled a distance of 29.3 miles to new positions at Goehrendorf, Germany, 732133, closing at 1225 hrs.

On 17 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1150 hrs from positions at Goehrendorf, Germany, 732133, and travelled a distance of 27.4 miles to new positions at Bad Durenberg, Germany, 020089, closing at 1445 hrs.

On 19 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1100 hrs from positions at Bad Durenberg, Germany, 020089, and travelled a distance of 9 miles to new positions at Markranstadt, Germany, 123094, closing at 1125 hrs.

On 21 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed 1415 hrs from positions at Markranstadt, Germany, 123094, and travelled a distance of 35.4 miles to new positions at Bad Laudick, Germany, 433944, closing at 1635 hrs.

e. Marches.
None.

f. Campaign.
No change.

G. Battles.
(1) Central Germany Offensive.

Enemy - The enemy's supporting armor consisted of a limited amount of tanks and SP guns which were committed in a piece-meal fashion. Main defenses opposing our advance consisted of roadblocks, blown bridges and fixed heavy anti-aircraft gun positions which were used as direct fire weapons. When these defenses were reduced, the enemy was able to offer
but slight resistance to our drive to the Mulde River, with the exception of the city of Leipzig, where the enemy put up a stiff defense. The terrain was generally open and rolling, with little wooded country and a minimum of water barriers, with the exception of the Weser and Saale Rivers. With the exception of seven or eight tanks, the enemy showed no supporting armor during the period. The greatest amount committed at any one time was three. Of these three, all were destroyed. Main defenses consisted of fixed anti-aircraft positions protecting the Harzberg, Leine, Halle, Leipzig Area, which were used as direct fire weapons to oppose our advance. Other methods of defense used were road blocks, panzerfauste teams and fortified buildings. Defenses of Leipzig consisted of machine gun emplacements, fortified buildings, and panzerfauste teams. The terrain encountered during the period was generally open and rolling and at times broke out into a flat plain. The Weser and Saale Rivers were encountered as the attack progressed toward the east but were crossed without difficulty.

Action - During this period this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-tank protection for the 2d Infantry Division and CCA 9th Armored Division.

From 1 April to 3 April Company C (2d Rcn Plt attached) was attached to 36th Infantry Regiment and further attached to CCA 9th Armored Division, spearheading the northern prong of V Corps attack and pursuit through Central Germany. 2d Rcn Platoon acting as point for the combat command destroyed 11 machine guns, 8 strong points containing panzerfausts and riflemen, 1 general purpose vehicle and 1 motorcycle, captured 97 prisoners, killed or wounded 35 enemy soldiers. Company A in support of 9th Infantry captured 16 prisoners and Company B in support of 23d Infantry captured 8 prisoners while following closely behind the armored spearheads mopping up by-passed pockets. On 4 April Company A was attached to 9th Infantry, Company B attached to 23d Infantry and Company C was attached to the 36th Infantry and the attack continued. On 7 April Company B fired on one Mark V and two Mark IV tanks, destroying one and damaging the two others. Third platoon Company B destroyed two anti-tank guns and one machine gun, killing 20 enemy and capturing 3. During the attack on Buhlen, Germany, 350250, Company B destroyed 6 20mm AA guns and 2 machine guns, killing 23 enemy. On 9 April Company A destroyed one ammunition vehicle, one horse-drawn vehicle and killed 10 and captured 14 prisoners. Also fired 25 rounds APC at 3 Mark V tanks with unknown results. Company C fired 23 rounds APC at 4 Mark VI tanks with unknown results due to long ranges. Company B supported attack on Gottingen,
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Germany (520280) with 50 caliber machine guns. On 10 April, Company B, while supporting the attack on Duderstadt, Germany (G770270), destroyed one self-propelled 75mm anti-tank gun, five general purpose vehicles, killed 35 enemy and captured 76 prisoners. 3rd platoon Company C was attached to 3rd battalion 36th Infantry and further attached to GCB 9th Armored Division. On 14 April Company B captured 30 prisoners and shot down an Me 109 with 50 caliber machine gun fire. Companies supported the attacks on Leuna, Marburg, and Mark. Hannover, where considerable opposition was offered by large caliber anti-aircraft guns used against ground targets, which were used to defend Leipzig. Companies supported the attack on Leipzig with direct fire and 50 caliber machine guns. Companies were relieved of attachments and placed in direct support on 21 April. On 23 April Company C fired 55 rounds at enemy strongpoints east of the Hinde River (484063), killing 20 enemy. On 26 April one section of 25 vehicles on a patrol in an attempt to contact the Russians fired on and killed 12 enemy and captured 23 prisoners. On 27 April while on another contact patrol the 3rd platoon captured 97 prisoners. Companies A and B sent out patrols with the Infantry to contact the Russian Advance for distances up to 25 kilometers from April 22 to 27. The following targets were destroyed by direct fire during the month of April:

- Tanks Mk IV ---------------------------2 (plus 1 probable)
- Mk V -------------------------------1
- Ht AT 75mm -----------------------------1
- General purpose vehicles ---------------10 (plus 2 captured)
- Anti-tank guns ------------------------2
- AA guns -------------------------------6
- Machine guns --------------------------14
- Strong points and panzerfaust emplacements -- 9
- Prisoners captured ----------------------453
- Estimated killed ------------------------163

b. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.
No change.

d. Loses in Action: Officers and Men.

- Capt Edward W. Warrington, 01324,296, 1 April (not hosp)
- Sgt James E. Wiley, 20325565, 1 April (not hosp)
- Tco 5 Calvin W. Collins, 34501766, 1 April (not hosp)
- Tco Garfield James, Jr., 35446369, 1 April (not hosp)
- Pfc Garfield James, Jr., 35446369, 1 April (not hosp)
- Pfc Gerald W. Kuside, 36276769, 5 April
- Pfc Alma C. Stroud, 35476560, 5 April
- Pfc Clyde Brewer, 34280509, 5 April
- Pvt Henry A. Polanski, 3581667, 5 April

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Pfc Donald N. Frazier, 33418330, 5 April (not hosp)
Tec 4 Walter F. Owens, 34535558, 5 April (not hosp)
1st Lt Jack A. Scales, 02005244, 5 April (not hosp)
Sgt Paul T. Caschi, 1233355, 7 April (not hosp)
Tec 5 Leo C. Guon, 33349043, 7 April (not hosp)
1st Lt Joseph C. Kosak, 01285771, 8 April (not hosp)
Sgt Ansel M. Dreggors, 34535560, 8 April
Tec 5 Fred C. Tidwell, 34524949, 8 April
Pfc Ronayne G. White, 34501336, 8 April
Pvt Richard N. Olle, 35005864, 8 April (not hosp)
Pvt Sam Dallen, 19098189, 8 April
Sgt William T. Camer, 20451516, 13 April (not hosp)
Pfc George L. Talley, 35474567, 13 April
Pvt Ernest Price, 36777288, 13 April
T/Sgt Lyle Netherly, 35052912, 15 April (not hosp)
Cpl Lee K. Guillery, 34077356, 16 April
Pfc Theodore Forreco, 35061355, 16 April
Cpl Leonard L. Richardson, 36272191, 16 April
Sgt William T. Lynch, 32277503, 16 April (not hosp)
Sgt William T. Camer, 20451516, 17 April
Pfc Ernest J. Letournel, 3108195, 17 April
1st Lt William J. Gribbin, 01824304, 18 April

Missing
None.

Killed
Pvt Sherwin V. Sampson, 36949019, 5 April
Pfc Russell C. Halmick, 33390577, 16 April
Pvt Wadia E. Menem, 38453966, 16 April

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

(1) Bronze Star (Heroic Achievement)
Sgt Foy G. Peavy, 34579013, GO 35, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 4 April 1945

(2) Bronze Star (Meritorious Service)
Sgt Clyde H. Rowland, 34535063, GO 35, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 4 April 1945
Tec 5 Rex L. Dunn, 34501922, GO 46, 2d Inf Div, 22 April 1945
S/Sgt Edward J. Hanley, 32421939, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 22 April 1945
S/Sgt George L. McCloud, 32562582, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 22 April 1945
1st Lt Jack A. Scales, 02055244, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 22 April 1945
T/Sgt Lyle Netherly, 35352915, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 24 April 1945.

k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.
None.
1. Miscellaneous.
(1) On 14 April 2d Lt John G. Stumpfle, 01824936, was promoted to 1st Lt per par 3, SO #102, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 14 April 1945, with date of rank 14 April 1945.

[Signature]

Henry G. Hathaway, Jr
1st Lt., PA (22)
En Historical Officer

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