ORDER

Headquarters
615th Tank Destroyer Battalion

APO 230, U.S. Army
3 April 1945

SUBJECT: History of 615th Tank Destroyer Battalion for Month of March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, V Corps, APO 395, U.S. Army

a. Original Unit
Completed.

b. Changes in organization.
This organization continued to be attached to V Corps, 3rd TD Group and further attached to the 2d Infantry Division.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
(1) At beginning of period -- 37 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 501 enlisted men.
(2) At end of period -- 36 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 499 enlisted men.
(3) Net change -- Increase of 1 officer and decrease of 2 enlisted men.

d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.
(1) On 5 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1630 hrs
from its position at Kleinmau, Germany and travelled a distance of 38.2 miles to new position at Villaun, Germany, coordinates (F159293), closing at 2245 hrs.
(2) On 6 March Battalion CP departed at 1105 hrs from its position at Hofen, Germany and travelled a distance of 22.6 miles to new position at Villaun, Germany, coordinates (F159293), closing at 1705 hrs.
(3) On 7 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1100 hrs
from its position at Villaun, Germany and travelled a distance of 10.6 miles to new position at Hochernich, Germany, coordinates (F236217), closing at 1500 hrs.
On 7 March Battalion CP departed at 1400 hrs from its position at Villaun, Germany and travelled a distance of 10.6 miles to new position at Hochernich, Germany, (F236217), closing at 1500 hrs.
(4) On 3 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 0812 hrs
from its position at Hochernich, Germany and travelled a distance of 7 miles to new position at Mitterreifel, Germany, coordinates (F310176), closing at 0910 hrs.

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SIGNED
On 6 March Battalion CP departed at 1635 hrs from its position at Deheimich, Germany and travelled a distance of 12 miles to new position at Niekerscheid, Germany, coordinates (F315354), closing at 1745 hrs.

On 9 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1335 hrs from its position at Maatereifel, Germany and travelled a distance of 22 miles to new position at Bruck, Germany, coordinates (457100), closing at 1520 hrs.

On 9 March Battalion CP departed at 1310 hrs from its position at Richardseid, Germany and travelled a distance of 15 miles to new position at Bruck, Germany, coordinates (457100), closing at 1430 hrs.

On 10 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1225 hrs from its position at Bruck, Germany and travelled a distance of 16 miles to new position at Langielfeld, Germany, coordinates (F602113), closing at 1340 hrs.

On 10 March Battalion CP departed at 1245 hrs from its position at Bruck, Germany and travelled a distance of 14.7 miles to new position at Schalkenbach, Germany, coordinates (F564105), closing at 1400 hrs.

On 21 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 2225 hrs from its position at Langielfeld, Germany and travelled a distance of 15 miles to new position at Hofingen, Germany, coordinates (F696132), closing at 0020 hrs.

On 21 March Battalion CP departed at 2240 hrs from its position at Schalkenbach, Germany and travelled a distance of 10.3 miles to new position at Linz, Germany, coordinates (F602105), closing at 2400 hrs.

On 25 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 0620 hrs from its position at Hofingen, Germany and travelled a distance of 12.8 miles to new position at Niederbieber, Germany, coordinates (F615069), closing at 1025 hrs.

On 25 March Battalion CP departed at 1720 hrs from its position at Linz, Germany and travelled a distance of 17.9 miles to new position at Niederbieber, Germany, coordinates (F615069), closing at 1830 hrs.

On 27 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 0800 hrs from its position at Niederbieber, Germany and travelled a distance of 16.2 miles to new position at Kehl Grenzhausen, Germany, coordinates (F949063), closing at 1340 hrs.

On 27 March Battalion CP departed at 1405 hrs from its position at Niederbieber, Germany and travelled a distance of 14.2 miles to new position at Kehl Grenzhausen, Germany, coordinates (F949063), closing at 1525 hrs.

On 29 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1030 hrs from its position at Kehl Grenzhausen, Germany and travelled a distance of 21.1 miles to new position at Niederhalb, Germany, coordinates (F715614), closing at 1140 hrs.
on 29 April, Operation J. departed at 1418 hrs from its position at Kupfermann, Germany and travelled a distance of 1.4 miles to new position at O средств, Germany, coordinate (30°54′ N, 15°32′ E), closing at 1515 hrs.

(1) on 30 April, Operation P. departed at 0615 hrs from its position at Kupfer I, Germany and travelled a distance of 6.6 miles to new position at O средств, Germany, coordinate (30°54′ N, 15°32′ E), closing at 1045 hrs.

on 30 March, Operation G. departed at 0715 hrs from its position at Kupfer I, Germany and travelled a distance of 6.9 miles to new position at O средств, Germany, coordinate (30°54′ N, 15°32′ E), closing at 1100 hrs.

g. Japanese

f. German

e. Change

(2) Terrain:

Terrain: The enemy's defensive lines consisted of unsegregated gun or tank emplacements and those in a piecemeal fashion. Main defenses of the chief river consisted of mine bridges, mine fields and road blocks. From these defenses were reduced, the enemy was able to offer but slight organized resistance to our drive to the Rhine River. The terrain was initially largely wooded hills with deep valleys, breaking into open inland terrain that extended to the vicinity of Munsterfeld. From Munsterfeld to Munster I the terrain was covered with a dense forest. From Munster I to the Rhine the terrain was a series of rugged masses with high rocks, covered hills and deep open valleys. With the exception of three or four large hills, the enemy offered no supporting strong points in the period 23 – 29 March. Main defenses consisted of mine bridges and scattered mines. The majority of towns and villages entered offered little or no resistance. Scattered resistance consisted of a considerable number of machine gun entrenchments and trench systems. A coordinated attack by tanks, tank destroyers, and infantry reduced these obstacles in four days. The terrain along the east bank of the Rhine was initially rolling hills with wooded areas here and there. Several rivers were encountered as the advance progressed towards the east and northeast but were crossed without difficulty. The terrain in the Rhine; - Munsterfeld, - Stolp, - Bolling. The area consists for the main part of high wooded hills with broad valleys, dotted with farms and numerous small villages.

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action - During this period this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-infantry protection to the 2d Infantry Division. On 10 March Co C was in direct support of the 7th Infantry Regiment and was in direct support of the 3rd Infantry Regiment. Companies were in anti-tank positions on the ridge overlooking Gerolstein, Germany. Co C was attached to the 5th Infantry and at the time was Division reserve. At 1400 hours 1 March Co B was attached to the 5th Infantry Division and remained in position. On 1 March Co A minus 1st platoon was attached to the 1st Cavalry Group (1st) and supported the attack on Lt. Lat. (270539) near Gerolstein (270537), Germany. Co D minus 1st platoon was attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment and supported their attack on Boeser Farnwald and Gerolstein, Germany. First platoon of Co B and 3rd platoon of Co C were attached to the 3rd Infantry Regiment. On 2 March Co A attached to 1st Infantry Regiment supported the attack on Ross, Heilbard, Schonau and Heidkohle, Germany with direct fire. Second platoon of Co A destroyed 2 in. guns, 2 general purpose vehicles, 5 horse drawn vehicles, and killed an estimated 150 enemy. Third platoon of Co A fired on a 280 mm howitzer and forced the crewmen to surrender. 15 prisoners, 1 machine gun, 5 general purpose vehicles. Co B fought a long column of enemy house drawn and general purpose vehicles in a defile and destroyed entire column. Killed an estimated 200 enemy and destroying 10 horse drawn and 10 general purpose vehicles. On 9 March Co B was relieved from attachment to 7th Infantry Regiment and attached to 23rd Infantry Regiment. 3rd platoon of Co C returned to company control. On 9 - 11 March company continued in the circuit along the Meuse Valley to the Meuse River. On 11 March 3rd platoon of Co A fired on Alders, Germany (2903), destroying 2 machine gun nests in fortified sector, killing 15 enemy and capturing 17 prisoners. On 12 March Co C put two platoons into direct fire positions on the west bank of the Meuse River, and used 40 caliber machine guns with heavy troops, killing 25 and capturing 65 prisoners. A 30mm AA gun was destroyed on the west bank of the Meuse. From 15 - 20 March the platoons of Co C and 1 section of the 2nd platoon of Co A were in position on the west bank of the Meuse River to deliver direct fire on the river and prevent enemy attempts to destroy the Hazen Bridge by floating 400 footed donjouson. On 21 March Co A
attached to the 38th Infantry Regiment crossed to the east bank of the Rhine and delivered direct fire support in the attack on Rodenbach, Germany. First platoon of Co C destroyed a 75mm AT gun, 2 machine guns and 4 fortified houses, killing 10 enemy and capturing 8 prisoners. On 26 March Companies A and B were relieved of attachment and placed in direct support of the infantry regiments. Co C, with 2nd Platoon attached, continued its attachment to the 38th Infantry Regiment and was further attached to 60A 96th Armored Division and followed with the combat command spearheads up through Langenschaid, Bensen, Reckebach, Grossminder, Lenzfeld, Hamberg, Treysa, Nargarb, Germany. Second, 2nd Platoon destroyed 7 machine guns, 3 panzerfaust placements, killed 20 enemy and captured 35 while acting as advance point during this period. Companies A and B carried infantry on their destroyers during this period in the pursuit. The following targets were engaged and destroyed:

- Anti-tank guns
- Tank V (medium) guns, 1
- Machine guns
- 40mm guns
- Field guns (105mm)
- River boats
- Baggoes and fortified buildings
- General purpose vehicles
- Horse drawn vehicles
- Prisoners of war
- Mortar, killed

One gun of Co A was tied in with 37th FA Battalion from 1 - 4 March and with the 187th FA Battalion from 13 - 21 March for illuminating missions. Sixty-four (64) rounds of illuminating shell were expended in 22 missions during these periods. From 13 - 21 March the 3rd Platoon of Co B was tied in with the 15th FA Battalion for indirect fire. One hundred and twenty-three (123) missions were fired during this period and eleven hundred and fifty-three (1153) rounds were expended while in indirect fire position. All missions were of a harassing nature.

b. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements. No change.

c. Losses in Action: Officers and Men. Ranged

- Pvt. Mathew J. Rebeck, 36661119, 4 March
- Pvt. Greedy J. Tegner, 36992492, 5 March
- Sgt. David D. Dukto, 3344378, 7 March
- Tec 5 Olin Green, 34572409, 12 March

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SECRET
BRITISH

Kto Fares Cordova, 37693928, 13 March
Kto Albert L. Galley, 36550907, 23 March
Kto William R. Lashott, 39563812, 23 March
Kto John Lengert, 35944840, 23 March
Tae 5 Robert B. Lasky, 35485529, 24 March (not hosp)
Kto John J. Geen, 38209977, 24 March (not hosp)
Tae 5 Hobdy F. Grant, 35015550, 25 March (not hosp)
Kto Albert E. Leachfelt, 35355366, 25 March (not hosp)
Kto Fernando R. Carbone!, Jr., 34520873, 25 March
Kto Homan J. Pearson, 36530093, 26 March (not hosp)
1st Lt Albert H. Farrowing, 31522006, 26 March (not hosp)
Kto Charles N. Cunningham, 36922272, 27 March (not hosp)

Closing Notice.

Filled Notice.

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

(1) Silver Star

Kto Lt William H. Harmon, 01968453, 00 23, 96, 1st Div, 6 March 45

(2) Croix de Guerre Avec Palme

Kto Col Joseph H. Healey, 02675520, Decision #4, A l'Ordre de L'Armée

(3) Le Croix de Guerre Avec Etendard de Bronze

Col Howard C. Taylor, 20451904, Decision #9, A l'Ordre de l'Ordre de l'Armée

Kto Eric S. Henness, 31535046, Decision #3, A l'Ordre de l'Armée

L. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.

M. Miscellaneous:

(1) 2/Lt William O. Leach commissioned 26 Lt in 49 per

25 March 45, Headquarters First United States Army

dated 26 March 1945 with date of rank 26 March 1945.

(2) On 26 March 26 Lt Jack L. Seiden, 0205841, was

promoted to 1st Lt per par 6 00 #1, Headquarters

First United States Army, dated 26 March 1945 with
date of rank 26 March 1945.

(3) On 26 March 26 Lt Martin L. Goldin, 01024930, was

promoted to 1st Lt per par 6 00 #2, Headquarters

First United States Army, dated 26 March 1945 with
date of rank 26 March 1945.

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(1.) On 27 February 1945 2D Lt. Stanley G. Zacharias, 01996-155, was promoted to 1st Lt. per per 0, 55 #56, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 27 February 1945, with date of rank 27 February 1945.

LARRY L. GANNON, Jr.
1st Lt., AD
AUS historical officer