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H-E-A-D-Q-U-A-R-T-E-R-S
614th Tank Destroyer Battalion

L-7145

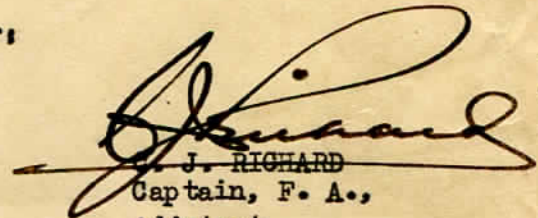
APO 758 U. S. Army
20 January 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History and Supporting Documents.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758 U. S. Army.
(Attention Historian)

1. In accordance with Section IV, Circular 34, your Hq., dated 28 November 1944, the unit history and supporting documents of this battalion for the month of December, 1944, is inclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:


J. RICHARD
Captain, F. A.,
Adjutant

TD BN - 614 - 013

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
W. G. Smith, Capt A6D 1 April 46

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Master

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By NA NARA Date 01/21/11

NARRATIVE REPORT, DECEMBER 1944, 614th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

On the 1 December 1944, the battalion was located in and around the town of Ober-Perl, Germany, attached to the 3d Cavalry Group with mission of protecting the left flank of XX Corps. The gun companies were in position near the Seigfried Line, firing on pillboxes and OP's. During the day at various intervals, enemy shells fell in the battalion's area, and one enlisted man suffered slight wounds from shell fragments. Late that day the Battalion received orders relieving it from attachment to the 3d Cav. Group, and alerted for movement to Luneville, France.

The battalion arrived in Luneville, France on 4 December 1944, and bivouaced awaiting further orders. The days spent in this town afforded all units an opportunity to perform needed maintenance on equipment and vehicles.

On the 7 December 1944, the battalion cleared Luneville, and proceeded to Kuttolshiem, France, where it was billeted in houses. Upon arrival here the battalion came under control of the 103d Inf. Division for operations, and relieved from attachment to the XX Corps. Co. "A" was attached to Task Force Forest, and Co. "C" to 411th Inf. Regt.

The Battalion CP, billeted in Bitschhoffen, France, on 10 December 1944, was subjected to attack by enemy aircraft. No casualties were incurred and one ME 109 was reported downed. This could not be confirmed because other units were repelling the air attack, and it was difficult to award credit to any particular gun crew. Later in the day, Co. "A" which was in position around Hinderfeld, France, was strafed by enemy planes, and one enlisted man was mortally wounded.

Per authority, letter European Theater of Operations, United States Army, dated 1 December 1944, the battalion received credit for Battle Participation Award-Northern France Campaign (No. 1). This was entered in the records of all officers and enlisted personnel who were assigned to the battalion during the period covered by the campaign. The authorization for this battle star to be worn in the ETO theater ribbon, marks the first battle credit received in the history of the battalion.

On 14 December 1944, one platoon from Co. "C" was attached to a task force commanded by the Executive Officer of the 411th Inf. Regt. The mission was to storm and capture the German-held town of Climbach, France. The route was through enemy territory and on the outskirts of the town, severe enemy fire was brought to bear on the task force, forcing it to halt and go into action. The TD platoon went forward and in firing position. The action lasted about four (4) hours, during which time our platoon inflicted serious damage and casualties to the enemy, suffering three (3) enlisted men killed and 17 wounded of their own. From the outstanding performance and heroic actions of this platoon, the town of Climbach fell to the infantry with a minimum of casualties.

Orders were received from Seventh Army for the Battalion to move to Neufvillage, France, on 22 December 1944, and upon arrival reverted to the control of the XV Corps for operations.

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The Battalion Commander was assigned by 103d Inf. Division as Anti-Tank Officer in charge of AT defense of the division sector. Reconnaissances were made of the sector front and recommendations submitted to the Commanding General of the division, which were put into effect with minor changes. The sector was adequately protected from any tank attack by using the TD 3" guns and the Infantry's AT guns. No tank threat was made by the Germans in the Division sector.

The Commanding General of the 103d Inf Division, personally pinned decorations on two officers and eight enlisted men, for their outstanding gallant and heroic actions while on the Task Force which had the mission of taking Climbach, France, on 14 December 1944. This ceremony took place on 28 December, and was a great morale factor to our troops.

In summary, the battalion performed its missions during the month with great success. Many valuable combat lessons were gained and battle experiences learned from our operations, which will be invaluable in future operations.

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ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

614th Tank Destroyer Bn.

Dec 1944

OFFICERS

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Lt. Col. FRANK S. PRITCHARD
 Major LEROY H. SMIPLE
 Major ROBERT J. O'LEARY
 Capt CHARLES J. RICHARD
 Capt GORDON P. MALOCHE
 Capt CHARLES W. OGELSBY
 Capt JAMES H. CARR
 Capt Thomas M. Campbell
 Capt BEAUREGARD KING
 Capt ROBERT L. FINLEY
 Capt CHARLES L. THOMAS
 1st Lt WALTER S. SMITH
 1st Lt CHARLES C. ROBINSON
 1st Lt EDWARD J. CAREY, JR.
 1st Lt. MILTON B. DEAS
 1st Lt LEONARD I. BURCH
 1st Lt ORMOND A. FORTE, JR.
 1st Lt CHARLES J. NELSON
 1st Lt SERREO S. NELSON
 1st Lt. RAYMOND H. POWELL
 1st Lt CLAUDE W. RAMSEY
 1st Lt THOMAS H. SHAW, JR.
 1st Lt FLOYD J. STALLINGS
 1st Lt ROBERT S. WILLIAMS
 1st Lt JOSEPH L. KEEBY
 1st Lt GEORGE W. MITCHELL
 2nd Lt PRESTON HELM, JR.
 2nd Lt LLOYD A. GREGORY
 2nd Lt FORREST A. WALKER
 2nd Lt CHRISTOPHER J. STURKEY
 2nd Lt ANDREW J. FAVORS
 WOJG ARNTIE E. HOLLINS
 WOJG RAYMOND LAMB

M Sgt Williard L. Hill
 M Sgt John W. Hurns Jr.,
 1st Sgt Gordon Brown
 1st Sgt Oliver S. Cox
 1st Sgt Sloan King
 1st Sgt Robert Cannon
 M Sgt Stonewall Jackson
 T Sgt Charles I. Anderson
 T Sgt James W. Early
 T Sgt Henry Evans
 T Sgt Richard H. Irvin
 T Sgt Giles Pearson
 T Sgt Charles E. Terry
 T Sgt Isaac Thomas
 T Sgt Clinton Walker
 T Sgt Garfield Gladden
 T Sgt Ulysses N. Love
 S Sgt Smiley T. Easley
 S Sgt James Holley
 S Sgt Chester L. Perry
 S Sgt Leo S. Smoot Jr.,
 S Sgt George W. Tamey
 S Sgt John O. Weir
 S Sgt Leroy Williams
 S Sgt Columbus Bryant
 S Sgt James Colbert
 S Sgt Garrett Lazarus
 S Sgt Warren J. Glapion
 S Sgt L. C. Hendley
 S Sgt Johnnie King
 S Sgt Lewis H. Manns
 S Sgt Amos A. Dashiell
 S Sgt Ernest E. Joynes
 S Sgt Arthur T. Mays
 S Sgt James F. McDougald
 S Sgt John E. Stubbs
 S Sgt Chester Thomas
 S Sgt Wilbur Turner
 S Sgt Clarence R. Wilson
 S Sgt Harvey Claybrook
 S Sgt Sylvester Harrington
 S Sgt Arthur Page
 S Sgt George W. Sims
 S Sgt Lonnie Summers
 S Sgt James R. Roundtree
 S Sgt William L. Tabron