

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



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A/A Rpt - 6th Tank Destroyer Group

Jan - May 45



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HEADQUARTERS NINTH U. S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

By Authority... 21 JAN 1945
CG, 9th Army Initial *BE*

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APD 339
21 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Reports
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
THRU : Commanding General, European Theater of Operations
US Army, APO 887, US Army

Contents of enclosed After Action Reports have been noted
by this headquarters.

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls:
✓ Incl 1 557th FA Bn
✓ Incl 2 6th TD Gp
OK as

Oscar L. Scarborough
OSCAR L. SCARBOROUGH
Captain F. A.
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

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HEADQUARTERS 6TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 339, U S Army

4 February 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report

TO : The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, D.C.

(Thru Channels)

1. In compliance with provisions of paragraph 10, AR 345-105 "After Action Report" and supporting documents for calendar month of January 1945 are submitted herewith.

FRANK T. SEARCY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Russell H. Newbury
RUSSELL H. NEWBURY
Major, Infantry
S-3

2. Incl:

Incl 1 - After Action Report
Incl 2 - Supporting Documents

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
AUTHORITY SECRETARY ARMY
CITE BY *22 Clayton* DATE *8 May 45*
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HEADQUARTERS 6TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 339, US Army

4 February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

ANNEX NO 3

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - CORPS SECURITY

1. The Corps Rear Area Security Officer is responsible for the preparation, coordination and execution of the Corps rear area security plan as laid down in Letter of Instruction No 23, Hqs XIII Corps, dated 271200A January 1945.
2. Continuous inspection of road blocks was carried out during the period. Practice alerts were conducted periodically in each area under the supervision of the area commanders and inspected by the Security Officer.
3. There were no enemy encountered and no hostile acts committed in the Corps Rear Area during period of this report.

SEARCY
CMDG

OFFICIAL:

Johnson
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Ass't Opns Officer

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- Inclosure 2 -

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH TANK DESTROYER GRO UP
APO 339, US Army

4 January 1915

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO

AFTER ACTION REPORT

I. List of Documents:

1. Journals
2. Existing AT Defense Plans of the Corps during period
3. Plans of TD employment during Operation "Dagger"
4. Preliminary plans of TD employment during ROER River Crossing Operations
5. Weekly Ammunition Expenditure Reports
6. Consolidated Reports of TD Operations
7. Daily Situation Reports from Division Antitank Officers.

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HEADQUARTERS CONTROL REST CENTER
APO 463, U.S. ARMY

4 February 1945

ANNEX # 4 to After Action Report - January 1945

I. General.

(a) The XIII Corps Rest Center Rest is operated by 4 officers and 40 enlisted men plus one medical officer and one chaplain, all a part of the 6th Tank Destroyer Group.

(b) The present Rest Center quota is 450 officers and enlisted men plus 29 members of the 88th AGF Band. A total of 479 guests.

II. Accommodations.

(a) Accommodations furnished guest personnel consist of:

- (1) Cots for sleeping in three steam heated school buildings for enlisted guests.
- (2) Individual rooms and beds in private homes for guest officers.
- (3) Three meals per day served cafeteria style, complete china-ware, silverware, and waiter service. Upon completion of a meal guest leaves all silverware and china on the table to be removed by tablewaiter. Ice cream served every second day.
- (4) Hot shower facilities in Rest Center open 24 hours daily.
- (5) Entertainment consisting of three movies daily augmented by USA shows and Orchestra programs in Rest Center Theatre.
- (6) Swimming in indoor warm water pool.
- (7) Three lounge rooms with plush furniture, writing tables, books games, writing paper, envelopes, Special Service magazines, Stars and Stripes daily and radios.
- (8) Tea dances every second day from 1400 - 1600 hours.
- (9) Daily religious service.
- (10) Medical and dental services.
- (11) Rest Center Pro station

ANNEX # 4 After Action Report CRC Cont'd

1 January 45

III. Statistical Datum since opening date, 16 December 1944.

- (a) Total guests - 6134
- (b) Motion Pictures shown: 52
- (c) USO Performances: 5
- (d) AGF Band performances: 17
- (e) Special features: Katherine Cornell and Brian Aherne in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street".

Truman Alford
TRUMAN ALFORD
Major, Infantry

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HEADQUARTERS XIII CORPS, APO 463, US Army, 14 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Ninth US Army, APO 339, US Army.

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HEADQUARTERS 6TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 339, U S ARMY

5 Feb 45

INCLOSURE NO. 2

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO AFTER ACTION REPORT

1. List of Documents

- a. Journals
- b. Antitank staff recommendations and plans.
- c. Daily Situation Reports of Division Antitank Officers.
- d. Consolidated Reports of TD Operations.
- e. Weekly Ammunition Expenditure Reports.
- f. Corps Security Instructions.

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HEADQUARTERS 6TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 339, U S Army

4 February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Month of January 1945

1. Unit assigned to Ninth US Army and attached to XIII Corps during the period.

2. Unit served in the capacity of Corps Antitank Section on the Staff of the Corps Artillery Commander.

a. Personnel:

Col Frank T. Searcy - Corps Antitank Officer
Operations Section - 1 Officer and 2 EM
Intelligence Section - 1 EM

b. Tank Destroyer Summary - see Annex No 1.

c. Comments on Combat Lessons - see Annex No 2.

3. Unit served in the capacity of Corps Rear Area Security Headquarters beginning 1100 hrs 27 January 1945.

a. Personnel:

Col Frank T. Searcy - Corps Rear Security Officer.
Operations Section - 3 officers and 2 EM

b. Operational Summary - see Annex No 3.

4. Unit operated the XIII Corps Rest Center.

a. Personnel:

Hq & Hq Co 6th TD Group (-)

b. Operational Summary - see Annex No 4.

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ANNEXES:

- Annex No 1 - Tank Destroyer Summary
- Annex No 2 - Comments on Combat Lessons
- Annex No 3 - Operational Summary of Corps Security
- Annex No 4 - Operational Summary of Corps Rest Center

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HEADQUARTERS 6TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 339, U S Army

AFTER ACTION REPORT

4 February 1945

ANNEX NO 1:

TANK DESTROYER SUMMARY

Period: 1 - 31 January 1945
Maps : Germany 1/25,000
CGCS hllh Sheets 5002, 5003, 5102, 5103

I. INTELLIGENCE:

1. Enemy tank activity in the Corps Sector:

In consolidating the Corps line along the ROER River no armor was encountered. Armored activity east of the ROER River has been limited to occasional track vehicular movements of small size identified by sound or by air Op's indicating nothing more than normal T and Assault gun elements of the 183 VGD and 59th Inf Div which are on the Corps front. Such has also been the indication in the XIX Corps sector on our right flank and the 12 Corps (Bn) on our left with the exception of 6 MK VI tanks which appeared on the British front in the action around NIMBERG (K8575).

2. New Identifications : None reported.

3. Reserves: In the mass withdrawal of Pz units from the ARDENNES salient locations have been momentarily lost. But it is believed that a major portion of the units have been sent to the eastern front. Present information indicates the Pz Lehr Div, the 116 Pz Div and the 3 Pz Gren Div in the area West of COLLOGNE as reserve forces available for commitment in the Corps sector. These units were heavily engaged in the ARDENNES action and now, without doubt, need extensive refitting and reequipping.

4. Enemy tanks destroyed: None.

II. TANK ASSIGNMENT FOR COMBAT

1. Atchd to Divisions

- a. 771 TD Bn (SP) atchd to 102 Inf Div.
- b. 821 TD Bn (SP) atchd to 29 Inf Div.

2. Corps Reserve

- a. Hq & Hq Co 6th TD Group atchd to XIII Corps
- b. 135 AAA Gun Bn atchd to 19 AAA Gp - to assume Tank Destroyer role on order of Corps Commander.
- c. 111 AAA Gun Bn atchd to 19 AAA Gp - to assume Tank Destroyer role on order of Corps Commander.

III. DETAILS

1. 771 TD Bn (SP)

- a. The Bn has 36 destroyers operational including 34 - 3 inch Sp Guns (M-10) and 2 - 90mm Sp Guns (M-36). No guns were lost to enemy action during the period. Two destroyers are kept continuously in maintenance for servicing on a rotational plan.
- b. The Bn is prepared to convert all TD Gps from the M-10 to the M-36 destroyer as soon as the new equipment becomes available.
- c. The Bn carries a basic ammunition load of 3 inch projectile APC M-62 w/fuze M-100, shell HE M-2 w/fuze M-46, shell HC M-1 Ssk, shell M-1 T-1 and M-1 T-105. Also drew shell HE M-2 w/fuze M-46 (capped charge), and shell Illuminating M-24 (Navy) w/fuze M-46 for use in secondary reinforcing artillery missions.

2. The Bn has 38 destroyers operational including

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Guns (M-10) and 12 - 3 Inch Towed Guns (M-5). In addition 5 - 3 Inch SP Guns are on hand being used for training purposes in reorganization. No destroyers were lost due to enemy action during the period.

- b. The Bn is in the process of reorganizing from a Towed unit under T/O & # 18-35 to an SP unit under T/O & # 18-25. Reorganization has been completed with the exception of 'B' Company due to non-availability of SP gun equipment; but it can be completed shortly after receipt of 5 additional destroyers.
- c. The Bn carries a basic ammunition load of 3 Inch projectile APC M62 w/fuze RD M66, Shell HE M42 w/fuze RD M48, Shell HC B1 Tank, Shell HE HC Tank "Spotting Rd", Shot HVAR T4 and fuzes GP T105 and T5, M54. Also drew Shell HE M42 w/fuze RD M48 (Reduced Charge) and Shell Illuminating Mk 24 (Navy) w/fuze T5, M54 for firing on secondary reinforcing artillery missions.

IV EXPLOYMENT

1. 6 TD Op.

- a. CO, 6th TD Group served as XIII Corps Antitank Officer and Corps Rear Area Security Officer assisted by the Operations and Intelligence Sections of the Headquarters.
- b. Hq and Hq Co. (-) operated the XIII Corps Rest Center at HEMRICH (A7655) handling approximately 450 officers and enlisted men from Corps troops every 48 hours.

2. 771 TD Bn

a. Employment

(1) Bn employed generally as a unit in support of the div front with TD Co's assigned missions of direct support of front line regimental elements. Normal employment of the Bn Co was attachment of 1 Bn plst to each TD Co with the primary mission of maintaining 24 hour OP's at critical points on the front line.

(2) During a major portion of the period the Bn remained in defensive positions with primary, alternate and secondary positions dug prepared to occupy in the event of armored attack.

(3) While on the defensive the Bn employed various means to harass the enemy, using such methods as night harassing fire, night interdiction fire, and roving gun fire.

(4) Bn provided close support to the div attacking elements in Operation "SHIFT". The primary mission of the TD guns was close support to the infantry in reducing, at liberty of which there were 74 in the zone of action. The operation was planned in detail but no action occurred as the enemy had withdrawn from the sector.

(5) Bn operated an Air OP section from the 690 FA Bn for registration and air-ground reconnaissance.

b. Primary Missions:

(1) No action against tanks and SP guns occurred during the period.

c. Secondary Missions:

(1) The Bn reinforced the div arty with 632 night harassing and interdiction missions, fired 364 night harassing missions from roving gun positions, fired 1 TUF mission, fired 3 direct destructive missions on enemy troop shelters and CP's, and fired 6 registrations.

(2) Ammunition expenditure totaled 6072 rds including 1201 rds HE (N/C) shell, 1867 rds HE (N/C) shell, 2 rds HE Shell (N/C) w/cp fuze T105 and 2 rds APC projectile. This was an average expenditure of 29.2 rds/gun/day for those guns in action on such missions or 5.4 rds/gun/day for the Bn as a whole.

3. 821 TD Bn

a. Employment

(1) Bn employed generally as a unit in support of the div front. Bn Co had primary mission of maintaining 24 hrs OP's at critical points on the front line.

(2) During the period the Bn remained in assembly positions prepared to move to dug-in positions in the event of armored attack.

(3) While on the defensive the Bn reinforced div arty fires with night harassing and interdiction fires, day harassing fires and direct fires on enemy OP's and installations.

b. Primary Mission:

No action against tanks and SP guns occurred during the period.

c. Secondary Missions:

(1) The Bn reinforced the div arty with 531 day and night harassing and interdiction missions, 1 direct destructive mission on suspected enemy OP's and 3 registration missions.

(2) Ammunition expenditures totaled 6260 rds including 898 rds HE (M/C) shell, 5290 rds HE (M/C) shell, 6 rds HE (M/C) shell w/Gr fuze T105, 49 rounds HE (M/C) shell w/fuze T105, 3 rds illuminating shell, 8 rds HE HC tank "spotting" shell and 6 rds APC projectile. This was an average expenditure of 22.0 rds/gun/day for those guns in action on such missions or 5/3 rds/gun/day for the Bn as a whole.

V. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

1. TD units of the Corps have been prepared to meet any armored threat in the Corps sector.
2. TD units of the Corps have been of valuable assistance to the Arty of the divs in carrying out the Corps plan for intensive harassing activity.

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