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 \* Ch: CG, V Corps \*  
 \* Date: 6 Mar 45 \*  
 \* Init: JWW \*  
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HEADQUARTERS, 3D TANK DESTROYER GROUP  
 TD - AT SECTION  
 APO 230 US ARMY



06 March 1945

SUBJECT: History of Tank Destroyer Section, 3d Tank Destroyer Group  
 TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C.

1. The Tank Destroyer Section continued operations in EUPEN, BELGIUM until 27 February. On this date, after a four months stay in Eupen, the CP Group consisting of the S-1, S-3, and S-4 sections moved to MANSHAU, GERMANY (K-945181) with the V Corps CP.

2. Special Order Number 19, Headquarters, V Corps, dated 6 February relieved Major Earl H. Fuller from assignment to the 3d Tank Destroyer Group and assigned him to Headquarters V Corps Artillery in the capacity of V Corps Antitank Officer.

3. On 9 February, Captain Nelson C. Works, Assistant Corps Antitank Officer, reported to the Commanding General of the newly arrived 59th Infantry Division to assist the division in antitank and tank destroyer matters and to assist in preparations for the arrival of the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Captain Works was relieved of his duties as Assistant Corps Antitank Officer and assigned as Antitank Officer of the 67th Infantry Division on 13 February 1945.

4. The Commanding Officer and S-3, 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, arrived at the Group CP on 11 February. They reported that the battalion left IL NAVLE 091900A February and arrived in BULLINGEN 111530A February. The 320 mile forced march was completed with a loss enroute of six destroyers, all disabled by minor mechanical difficulties. All six destroyers later joined the battalion in the division sector. Colonel Mays and Major Fuller oriented the Commanding Officer and S-3 of the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion on the V Corps situation and gave them a general picture of the Western Front. Major Dougherty contacted and assisted the battalion S-4 in obtaining various items of equipment which are authorized in this theater.

5. On 2 February, the Antitank Officer FUSA advised the S-3 that there were four 88mm German Towed Antitank Guns available to supplement the antitank or tank destroyer defense in the Corps. Thus began a merry-go-round. The Antitank Officer, 99th Infantry Division stated the guns could be used by his division and tied in with the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Several days later, when word was received that the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion would leave the Corps sector, the S-4 V Corps

SECRET

S E C R E T

Artillery expressed a desire to have the guns to use for indirect fire. Inquiry disclosed that these guns were fitted with direct fire sights only and were not suitable for indirect fire employment. The Antitank officer, 9th Infantry Division, after due consideration, decided his division would use the guns if they were still available and furthermore would like to have more in addition to the four 88's offered. Arrangements were then made to have the orphaned 88's given to the 9th Infantry Division. On the 17th of February, the Antitank officer, PUSA, said that Ordnance had completed the repair of the 88's and they were ready to be put into position. The 9th Infantry Division was notified and the antitank officer stated that after a little more careful consideration and on inspection of the guns he did not want them because no spare parts nor technical information on them was available. However, his division might take some at a later date. The Antitank officer, 69th Infantry Division decided at this stage that he would take a shot at it and offered to take the 88's. By this time, it was learned from Ordnance that a heavier prime mover than was originally thought necessary would be required. Since no prime mover was furnished with the guns, the Antitank officer, 69th Infantry Division was instructed that he should get M-5 tractors as prime movers. The next day, the 69th Infantry Division Antitank officer called and said that they would not take the guns because they could not get anything with which to tow them. He called again later, and said that they would borrow prime movers and put the guns into position. On 22 February, Major Fuller advised the Antitank officer, 69th Infantry Division that, by direction of the G-3, V Corps, they could not have the 88's for employment until four adequate prime movers were provided for them. It was feared that the 88's might be abandoned if the front began moving rapidly again if no prime movers were available for the guns. Major Fuller then called the 177th Ordnance Battalion and told them that he had no further connection with the guns and that they were not to be given to anyone without the sanction of the G-3, V Corps. And so ended the see-saw of the 88mm German Antitank Guns. At the end of the month, the four German 88mm Antitank Guns remained neatly parked and aligned with muzzle and breach covered in the vicinity of the 177th Ordnance Battalion - still without a home!

6. During the month, arrangements were made through this Headquarters for the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion to train crews and mechanics of the 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion was scheduled to be converted from towed to SP M-36 and the training of the crews and mechanics with an SP M-36 outfit would greatly benefit the battalion in its preparation for conversion. Six crews, consisting of thirty men, and three mechanics reported to the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion on 20 February and remained with the unit for nine days. During the time, the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion conducted a training program for the visiting tank destroyer personnel and instructed them in the techniques of SP tank destroyer operations and maintenance.

S E C R E T

SECRET

7. Colonel Wags received notification of his promotion to full Colonel effective 15 February. The Commanding Officer, 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion presented Colonel Wags with a helmet decorated with an eagle.

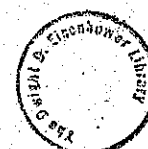
8. Captain Raymond J. Blackwell, who had been hospitalized with pneumonia during the month, was transferred to the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion on 15 February. Lieutenant George E. Brewer reported to the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion for detached service on 27 February. On the same date, Major William E. Nash, on detached service from the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion, reported for duty as the acting S-3, 3d Tank Destroyer Group.

9. Effective 27 February, Captain George J. Hayton, was relieved of command of Headquarters Company, 3d Tank Destroyer Group in view of an expected reassignment. Captain George R. Westlake assumed command of the Company.

10. In spite of the many changes in personnel and the move of the CP into Germany, no casualties were sustained by the tank destroyer sector during the month of February.

For the Group Commander:

*John W. Walsh*  
 JOHN W. WALSH  
 Captain, TD  
 Group Historian



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