

HEADQUARTERS
5TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 758, U.S. ARMY



5 December 1944

SUBJECT: Report After Operations Against the Enemy.

TO : Adjutant General, Army War College, War Department, Washington, D.C.

THROUGH: Commanding General, Seventh U.S. Army, APO 758, U.S. Army (Attention: Historian), and Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 436, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105, dtd 18 November 1929, and change 4, dtd 10 August 1944, and Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, subject: "Handling of Historical Documents in the European Theater of Operations", File AG 312.1 Op History, dtd 14 July 1944, the following report is submitted.

2. Arabic numbers following certain statements refer to similarly marked pertinent entries in the attached Unit Journal of this organization. See inclosure #1.

3. Report after Operations Against the Enemy, 010001 November to 302400 November 1944.

1 November, 5th TD Group, assigned to Hq, ETOUSA, and attached to XV Corps, was located in LUNEVILLE, (0899) Sheet 15 N, GSGS 4249, 1/100,000. TD Battalions in XV Corps were employed as follows: 776th TD Bn, SP, M-36, attached to the 44th Infantry Division, was in position supporting the infantry regiments 8 of the RHINE - MARNE CANAL and N of the VEZOUSE. The 813th TD Bn, SP, M-10, was in a maintenance and rest area in the vicinity of VITRIMONT, 3 kilometers West of LUNEVILLE. At 011100 November, the 813th TD Bn reverted from 44th Division to Corps reserve, under control of 5th TD Group, as per Operations Instructions No. 36, XV Corps (11).

In order to protect the life of TD gun tubes, Hq, 5th TD Group, published a memorandum which set rates of fire for Tank Destroyers when employed on the secondary mission of indirect fire. This memorandum was published with the approval of the Corps Artillery Officer (5).

1 November, Group Assistant Executive Officer and stenographer left for 773rd TD Battalion, formerly attached to 5th TD Group, to complete the work on decorations for personnel of that unit. These decorations were recommended for action while attached to Hq, 5th TD Group. Group Asst. Executive Officer returned on 3 November (9).

During the rest period 1 November to 11 November, 5th TD Group maintained close liaison with the 813th TD Bn. On 6th November officers of 5th TD Group inspected the 813th TD Bn to determine status of training, supply and replacements (122, 125). Following the inspection, a directive was issued to CO, 813th TD Bn, covering the deficiencies noted and which directed further training in driving, gunnery, radio operation, bazooka and rifle grenade firing, to end 11 November (159).

6 November, at a ceremony at Group Hq., General WADE H. HAISLIP, CG of XV Corps, presented the following decorations to personnel of 5th TD Group (129). Col. L. E. JACOBY, O-12300, FA, Commanding Officer of the 5th TD Group, received the Silver Star for gallantry in action near CHAMBOIS, France, 20th August 1944 (130).

Major William V. Giles, O-325475, FA, Group Asst. Executive, was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service during the period 14 August to 22 August 1944 in France (131).

Not present at the ceremony, but the recipient of the Certificate of Merit was Capt ALBERT W. WOLFF, O-1823449, TD, AIE. This award was given for conspicuously meritorious and outstanding performance of military duty (133).

6th November, Group Information and Education Officer, accompanied by the I and E officers of the 813th and 776th TD Bns attended a school at Seventh Army Hq. The purpose of the one day course was to give an indoctrination of the army's orientation and education program (145).

11 November, CO, 813th TD Bn, visited Group CP for a conference on the assignment of the 813th TD Bn in the future offensive operation (177). Major MENARD, Forward Section, of Sixth Army Group, was also at Group CP and conferred with the unit commanders and CO, 776th TD Bn, on the subject of operations and the relation of group to battalion (179).

In order to control the expenditure of 3" and 90mm TD ammunition, CO, 5th TD Group, began publication of a memorandum which allocated the number of rounds of all types of ammunition to be drawn by each TD Bn in the XV Corps. This memorandum is published with concurrence of G-3 and Artillery Officer of XV Corps. To enable TD battalions to destroy pill boxes and bunkers more effectively, CO, 5th TD Group, recommended to Corps Ammunition Officer that all TD Bns be issued 400, T-105 concrete piercing fuses. This request was approved and a partial issue was made.

10 November, 5th TD Group received FO No. 11, XV Corps, which direct that XV Corps attack East with 44th and 79th Infantry Divisions abreast and 2nd Armored Division (French) in reserve. 776th TD Bn was attached to 44th Division, 813th TD Bn was attached to 79th Division, and 5th TD Group remained in Corps reserve (228).

Effective 110800, 813th TD Bn was relieved of attachment to 5th TD Group and attached to 79th Division (247). CO, 813th TD Bn, continued his reconnaissance of assembly areas in the sector of the 79th Division.

12th November XV Corps Artillery published the schedule of fires for the artillery preparation. Each TD Bn surveyed in one TD company for the preparation, and combined, they fired a total of 2274 rounds (281). During the night of 12 - 13 November, 813th TD Bn marched by infiltration to the jump-off positions. At 130700 the attack was launched and the TD platoons, working generally in support of an infantry battalion, moved ahead with the attack. No tank action was experienced until 151015 November, when "A" Company of the 813th TD Bn intercepted a vehicular movement across their front near HALLOVILLE. 2 M4 IV tanks, 2 SP guns, 2 half-tracks, 2 general purpose vehicles, and 2 staff cars were destroyed (387). On the morning 16 November, 813th TD Bn lost one M-10 due to enemy action.

During the attack, close liaison was maintained with TD Bns in order to keep an accurate picture of the advance. At 181400, 5th TD Group billeting party reconnoitered for a new CP in the vicinity of OGEVILLER (441). The billeting party returned and at 210945 November, 5th TD Group moved to ANCERVILLER, coordinates (336920) FRANCE, 1/50,000, XXXV-16, GSOG 4249, travelling 18 miles (455).

During this period, XV Corps advanced rapidly in zone, and by 20 November advance elements had reached SAARBURG.

201400, CO, 776th TD Bn, visited CP of 5th TD Group and discussed future operations with the Group Commander (467). Continued liaison with the TD battalions and division headquarters was maintained.

21st November a growing need for TD protection to reinforce the 106th Cavalry Group which protected Corps N Flank was seen. The Group Commander recommended that elements of 776th TD Battalion be attached for support. This order was issued by XV Corps on 21 November, and Company "C", 776th TD Bn, was attached (503).

On order of XV Corps, 5th TD Group sent a CP billeting party to SAARBURG 21 November (502A). Later that day the CO, 645th TD Bn, attached to 45th Division, conferred with CO, 5th TD Group on the policies, SOP's, and methods of employment of TD's in XV Corps (510). At that time 645th TD Bn (less one TD company) was in a rear area refitting, prior to commitment with the 45th Division on the XV Corps front.

211805 CO, 5th TD Group, was ordered to Corps Hq and conferred with G-3 on anti-tank situation of the Corps (512).

220655 November, Group CP closed at ANCERVILLER and moved to SAARBURG, opening the new CP at 1255 (528). Bn Commander of 776th TD Bn visited Group CP and exchanged information with the Group Commander (529).

At 232310, CO, 5th TD Group, was charged with coordinating mass action of sufficient tank destroyers to stop the attack of the 130th Panzer Lehr Division which had developed since 231700. Company "C" reverted to control CO, 776th TD Bn, who was charged with mission of supporting either 106th Cavalry Group or 44th Infantry Division, dependant upon action of enemy tanks.



Hq, 5th Tank Destroyer Group, received letter orders from Seventh Army relieving the organization from assignment to Hq, ETOUSA, and assigning it to Seventh Army and further attaching it to XV Corps for operations (741).

The Army Anti-tank Officer visited the Group CP and conferred with the Group Commander. Points brought up to the Group Commander were the absence of replacement tank destroyers in Seventh Army and the non-availability of more TD Battalions to supply a desired quota of 1 tank destroyer battalion per division and 1 tank destroyer battalion in Corps reserve (754). Action was taken on 30th November by CO, 5th TD Group, and XV Corps G-4 to obtain replacement Tank Destroyers through ETOUSA channels.

The Group S-1, S-4 visited the 645th and 824th TD Battalions and oriented the S-4's on the supply SOP's in the XV Corps (776). The Group Special Service non-com was sent to 813th TD Bn to show motion pictures.

The Executive Officer of 824th TD Bn visited Group CP and was given information on the present situation (758).

30 November the attack was resumed and the 645th TD Bn destroyed an enemy tank and the 813th TD Bn fired on a MK IV tank but could not observe the results.

During the month of November both chaplains of Hq, 5th TD Group, worked with the TD Bns in XV Corps, holding services, making hospital visits, and writing letters to families of the men. The two group dentists were attached to the 813th TD Bn and treated 101 cases.

For the period covered, the Commanding Officer of 5th Tank Destroyer Group served as anti-tank officer for XV Corps. During this period, the XV Corps is credited with knocking out 39 tanks and 5 self-propelled guns, of which 13 tanks and 3 self-propelled guns were destroyed by Tank Destroyers, 5 tanks by air action, and 21 tanks and 2 self-propelled guns by other combined branches. Since the XV Corps became operational at 311600Z July 1944, the cumulative total of tanks and self-propelled guns liquidated by all troops assigned, attached, or in support of the Corps totals 794. Of this 794 tanks and SP guns liquidated, 89 were eliminated by Hq, 5th Tank Destroyer Group and 773rd TD Bn on temporary detached service with the V Corps during the period 17 August to 22 August 1944.

Daily TD Reports of 645th, 776th, and 813th TD Battalions are attached as enclosures 3, 4, and 5 respectively, in order to show total destruction of tanks by these battalions.

L. E. JACOBY
Colonel, FA
Commanding



5 Incls:

- Incl. #1 - Unit Journal, Hq 5th TD Group, 1 November to 30 November 44, incl.
- Incl. #2 - Record of AFO, XV Corps, on enemy tanks destroyed during November 44.
- Incl. #3 - Daily TD Report, 645th TD Bn, dtd 30 November 44.
- Incl. #4 - Daily TD Report, 776th TD Bn, dtd 30 November 44.
- Incl. #5 - Daily TD Report, 813th TD Bn, dtd 30 November 44.

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