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HEADQUARTERS
602ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO NO. 403, U. S. ARMY

4 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Historical Records for Period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 89th Infantry Division, APO 89, U. S. Army.
Attention: Historical Section.

Under the provisions of paragraph 10, Cg 3, AR 345-105, historical records of this unit for the period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 are transmitted herewith.

FOR THE BATTALION COMMANDER:

Edwin M. Cage
EDWIN M. CAGE,
1st Lt., Field Artillery,
Adjutant.

2 Incls:

- 1 - Staff Summaries & Unit Journal.
- 2 - Incoming and Outgoing Messages.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
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READING COMMITTEE

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SUMMARY OF ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, 602ND TANK DESTROYER
BATTALION FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 APRIL 1945

I. <u>STRENGTH:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
1 April 1945	34	1	597
30 April 1945	35	1	601

II. <u>CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. Killed in action	0	0	1
b. Died of wounds	0	0	1
c. Wounded	0	0	4
d. Injured	0	0	1
e. Captured	0	0	0
f. Missing in action	0	0	0
g. Interned	0	0	0
h. Hospitalized (sick)	0	0	15
TOTAL:	0	0	22

III. REINFORCEMENTS:

a. Requisitioned during period:	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	0	0	0
b. Received during period :	0	0	8

IV. CASUALTIES RETURNING TO DUTY:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	1	0	20

V. Two enlisted men tried and convicted by General Courts-Martial. Dropped from assignment 22 April 1945.

VI. a. Decorations Awarded:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
S/Sgt Norman McGowen	Co B, 602d T. D. Bn	Silver Star Medal
Sgt Virgil A. Scurlock	Rcn Co, 602d TD Bn	Silver Star Medal
Capt William L. Still	Rcn Co, 602d TD Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Capt John B. Coulston	Hq, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
M/Sgt Terpstra, John S.	Hq Co, 602d T.D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Cpl Eldred T. Brown	Co A, 602d T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Pfc John N. McPherson	Co A, 602d T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
S/Sgt Harold T. Haynes	Co A, 602d T. D. Bn	Oak Leaf Cluster to PSM
1st Lt Elbert B. Mills	Rcn Co, 602d TD Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Sgt Bennie H. Erwin	Co A, 602d T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Pfc Earl F. Stevens	Rcn Co, 602d TD Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 4 Carmon M. Hancock	Co B, 602d T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 4 Eddie B. Hoggatt	Co B, 602d T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 4 Francisco B. Saenz	Co B, 602d T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Cpl Clifford McMahan	Hq Co, 602nd T.D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Sgt Frederick F. Prothe	Rcn Co, 602d TD Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Capt Walter D. Hart	Co B, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
1st Lt Frank E. Anderson	Co C, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
1st Lt Robert E. Graham	Co C, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal

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(Administrative Matters Continued), Section VI- Decorations Awarded:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Sgt Thomas C. Connor	Co A, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Sgt Willie L. Deering	Co A, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 4 Lorne P. Beaudoin	Co A, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 5 Everett T. Baker	Rcn Co, 602nd T. D. Bn	Bronze Star Medal

b. Number of personnel authorized Purple Heart during Period:

<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
0	0	7

VII. PRISONERS CAPTURED AND EVACUATED DURING PERIOD: **OFF:** **None :** **EM: 251**

VIII. COMMENDATIONS:

One commendation was received during the period. (See copy attached marked Incl #1).

IX. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Personnel section continued to work with the 89th Infantry Division Administrative Echelon.

b. Mail has been picked up from APO 89 during period.

c. Special Service:

1. Lt Pilaroscia, the special service officer, was successful in obtaining ten films which were shown the personnel of all companies during the period. The films included two recent productions "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and "The Thin Man Comes Home." Four coca colas were received for each man and officer. These were the first the personnel had received since coming overseas.

2. Sufficient copies of Stars and Stripes and The Yank Magazine were received to make distribution of approximately ten copies per company.

3. Religious services for all faiths were held weekly provided the tactical situation permitted.

4. Four officers and twenty-one enlisted received 72 hour passes to visit Paris, France. One officer and four enlisted received seven day furloughs to Riviera, France.

d. Unit Commanders of 89th Infantry Division and attached units held a meeting 20 April 1945. (Notes of meeting attached hereto marked Incl No. 2).

e. Order of the Day from Commanding General, 12th Army Group inclosed herewith marked Incl No. 3.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 602ND T. D. BATTALION FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1945 TO 31 APRIL 1945

1. The battalion remained attached to the 89th Infantry Division. The companies worked with the Infantry Regiments during the period except the short attachments to Task Forces. The gun companies' attachments were as follows.

Company "A" to 353rd Infantry Regiment.

Company "B" to 354th Infantry Regiment.

Company "C" to 355th Infantry Regiment.

Reconnaissance company attached to VIII Corps on 18 April 1945 to perform such missions as Corps might assign.

2. No S-3 Periodic Reports were called for by higher headquarters during period.

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CUMULATIVE LOSSES INFLICTED AGAINST THE ENEMY DURING PERIOD 28 AUGUST 1944 TO 30 APRIL 1945

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>CO A</u>	<u>CO B</u>	<u>CO C</u>	<u>RCN CO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tanks	24	14	6	0	44
Tanks Damaged	0	3	0	0	3
Flak Guns	4	5	6	0	15
Anti Tank Guns	14	19	10	2	45
Armored Cars	3	1	1	0	5
Rcn Cars	1	1	0	0	2
Machine Guns	13	9	14	1	37
Mortars	3	4	3	0	10
Observations Posts	12	9	5	0	26
Trucks	9	20	8	0	37
Half Tracks	2	1	2	0	5
88 MM & other Artillery	5	6	4	0	15
Ammunition Dump	1	0	0	0	1
Pillboxes	4	6	18	0	28
Locomotives	0	0	3	0	3
Personnel	213	217	282	48	760
Prisoners of War	432	1293	457	112	2294

CUMULATIVE LOSSES SUSTAINED FROM THE ENEMY DURING THE PERIOD 28 AUGUST 1944 TO 30 APRIL 1945

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>HQS CO</u>	<u>CO A</u>	<u>CO B</u>	<u>CO C</u>	<u>RCN CO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
M-18	0	3	4	1	0	8
Motorcycle	1	0	1	0	4	6
1/4 ton truck	0	1	3	2	3	9
1 1/2 ton truck	0	1	0	0	0	1
Half-Track	0	0	2	0	0	2
Trailer	0	1	0	0	0	1

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SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, 602D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1945 TO 31 APRIL 1945

I. Class I Supplies:

Class I supplies were drawn from 89th Infantry Division Supply Dumps.

II. Class II Supplies:

No change from preceding month.

III. Class III Supplies:

a. Gas was drawn from Army Gas Dumps.

b. At the time of the Rhine crossing the gas trucks were increased to two per company to facilitate the rapid advance across Germany. When the situation became stabilized about 18 April 1945 the gun companies were assigned only one gas truck each; one truck was assigned to Recon Company which had just been attached to VIII Corps on a separate mission. The other gas trucks were put through battalion shop and a plan of rotation was instituted, designed to give a thorough shop check to all the 2½ ton trucks in the battalion.

IV. Class IV Supplies:

a. No change in preceding month.

b. No change in preceding month.

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SUMMARY OF EVACUATION, 602ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1945 TO 30
APRIL 1945

I GENERAL:

- a. The entire Medical Detachment except the two aid men operating with the companies remained with the Battalion rear echelon.
- b. No change in preceding month.
- c. No change in preceding month.
- d. No change in preceding month.

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UNIT JOURNAL

1 April 45: Companies continued maintenance as Division remained in Corps Reserve. A film was obtained from Division Special Service Officer and was shown in Kassel for Hq, Rcn & C Companies.

2 April 45: During the day the companies continued maintenance. At dark A Co with the 353rd Regt and C Co with the 355 Inf Regt moved out to concentration area vicinity of Hersfeld (H3955), road distance about 130 miles.

3 April 45: B Co with the 354th Regt, moved up to concentration area. Division began relief of 90th and 65th Division elements. Bn CP, Rcn and Hq Co, also moved up to vicinity of Hersfeld.

4 April 45: C Co, with 355 Regt, moved to Gotha (J0965) and was placed under operational control of the 4th Armored Division. Co B moved to Archfeld (H6974), A Co moved to Unterellen (H7066) Bn CP moved to Wolf-terode (H5971).

5 April 45: Hq Co and Rcn Co moved to Wolfterode, Capt Hraham, Lt King, and 10 enlisted men left on 72 hour pass to Paris. The Division encountered unexpected resistance in Eisenach and no appreciable gains were made. B Co took 10 prisoners, Rcn Co took 7 prisoners. A Co took 86 prisoners, knocked out 1 truck and 9 machine guns. C Co took 50 prisoners and knocked out 1 anti-tank gun.

6 April 45: C Co, with 355th Inf Regt were put back under control of 89th Division, but no substantial changes in position occurred. A Co moved into and through Eisenach with the 353rd Regiment. B Co, with 354th Regt made good progress on Divisions north flank, holding ground until relieved by XX Corps elements.

7 April 45: All division elements moved generally south to prepare for advance to southeast. Bn CP did not move, but was prepared to move on Division order.

8 April 45: Hq, Rcn and Bn CP moved to Wahwinkel (J0159). A and B Companies moved with their respective Regiments to the general area of Friedrichroda. A Co over-ran and destroyed a Mark IV tank. C Co continued to screen the front lines around Ohrdorf.

9 April 45: All elements of the Division continued mopping up in Zone and prepared for resumption of the attack to the East.

10 April 45: A Co with 353rd Regt remained in Division Reserve. C Co with 355th Regt made excellent progress and occupied Arnstadt (J2653). B Co with 354 Regt on Division right met moderate resistance and was several kilometers back of the 355th Regt line. B Co CP in Ohrdorf (J1152). B Co had 1 tank destroyer and 1 jeep damaged by artillery.

11 April 45: C Co advanced as far as Tonndorf (J4460) against light opposition. B Co moved up to Marlshausen (J3152). 354th Inf Regt continued to meet the heavier opposition in its sector.

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11 April 45 cont'd: Rcn and Bn CP moved to Holzhausen (J2155). Capt Aldredge and 4 enlisted men received 7 day furloughs to **Riviera**. Task Force Crater was formed, made up of A Co of the 602nd TD Bn, Co A of the 707th Tank Bn, a Battalion of Infantry and a company of the 314th Engineers. Bn captured a total of 28 prisoners. Task Force assembled about 2200 in the vicinity of Riechheim (J3859), prepared to advance on Division order to seize bridges over the Saale River.

12 April 45: C Co with 355th Inf Regt occupied Bad Berka (J4961). The 353rd Inf Regt (less one battalion) relieved the 354th Inf Regt in its sector. B Co was relieved from 354th Regt and was attached to the 353rd. A Co, attached to Task Force Crater continued in Division Reserve.

13 April 45: Task Force Crater was committed and by 0800 A Co was up to the **Saale River**. Hq Co, Rcn and Bn CP moved to Gutendorf (J4464). Co C reached Gumperda (J6752) B Co reached Neckeroda (J5352). No serious opposition encountered. McPeck died of wounds received in action same day. Bn completed 1st month with 89th Infantry Division and sustained only 10 battle casualties, including one killed, during the period.

14 April 45: Task Force Crater was dissolved, and A Co remained in place. B Co advanced to Eichenberg (J6750). Co C moved up to Trobnitz (J8156). At 1700 a field order was received from Division directing the commitment of all three regiments. Companies reverted to normal attachments, A Co with 353rd on the right flank, B Co with the 354th in the center and C Co with the 355th on the left.

15 April 45: Bn CP and Rcn Co moved to Grossbackedra (J7656). A Co stopped at Träptis (J9145). B and C companies both located their CP's in München-Bernsdorf (J9555), which was near enough to the regimental boundaries to be utilized by both companies.

16 April 45: Bn CP, Hq and Rcn Companies moved to Kofeln (K0353). The Companies continued their advance against very light resistance. A Co to Langen (K0840), B Co to Weida (K0450) C Co to Linda (K1455). Picture show was held for Hq and Rcn Companies.

17 April 45: C Co with 355th Inf Regt **attacked ZWICKAU (K3846)** which had refused terms of surrender. Lt Kilborn's Rcn platoon with the aid of an escaped British P.W. made a bold dash through the streets of the town. Although all avenues of approach were defended by German rifleman and bazooka teams, the platoon's speed enabled them to **reach and secure a vital bridge** over the Mulde River. While the platoon was dismounted, trying to cut demolition wires and secure the bridge they were subjected to rifle and machine gun fire. One man was wounded and Pfc Earl Stevens was killed. Stevens, only three days earlier, had been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic action in saving two of his wounded comrades shortly after the Rhine crossing.

B Co also secured bridges across the Mulde River farther south in the zone of the 354th Inf Regiment. A Co with the 353rd advanced to the Corps restraining line in the south of Division's Sector.

18 April 45: Recon Co was assembled and placed directly under Corps

18 April 45 cont'd: control to perform such missions as Corps night as-
sigh. Hq and Bn CP moved to Zwickau (K3644). C Co also in Zwickau was
at K3646. B Co at Ebersbrunn (K3238). A Co was at Oberheinsdorf
(K2835). Higher headquarters indicated that a brief breathing spell
could be expected, so all companies began maintenance periods.

19 April 45: Recon Co received a mission of protecting the Corps CP
near Zeulenroda (K0036). Other companies continued maintenance.
More than two dozen bronze star medals were awarded to officers and
men of the battalion. In almost every instance the ribbons and ci-
tations had been previously presented, but the actual medals had not
been available until recently. Picture show was held in Bn CP build-
ing for Hq and C Companies.

20 April 45: Maintenance continued. Picture show was repeated in the
afternoon for members of A and B Companies. Lt Col Conlin attended
Unit Commanders meeting at Div Hqs. (Report of meeting included in
Historical Report).

21 April 45: Companies continued maintenance. C Co had two platoons
on the line and one in reserve. B Co also had two on the line and one
in reserve. A picture show was held in the C Co. Area in the afternoon
and again at night at Bn CP. A report came in during the afternoon
that Russian prisoners in Zwickau had been fired on by SS men in civilian
clothes. Three destroyers which were at Bn Motor Shop, and several
armored cars were sent out to find the trouble. It proved to be a case
of the armed German civilian guards firing on the Russians. Nothing
serious developed. B Co moved to Vielau (K3942).

22 April 45: Maintenance was continued. Picture shows were held for
members of all companies. B Co reported 1 AT gun knocked out, 3 trucks
destroyed, 22 enemy killed, and 70 PW's taken during the week.

23 April 45: Maintenance continued. Good progress was noted in appear-
and of men and equipment. Virtually all the men had been able to take
showers and most men had been able to get their clothes laundered.
Eleven men returned to duty from hospitals and enlisted strength once
again exceeded the 600 mark. VIII Corps passed to control of First
Army, but no immediate effect was felt in battalion affairs. Capt
Tharp and one enlisted man left on temporary duty with the Military
Government. Lt Ranges and Lt Parnell and eleven men left on pass to
Paris.

24 April 45: Recon Co continued its mission of guarding the Corps CP
and was also able to perform maintenance on vehicles. Other companies
also continued maintenance. Capt Aldredge and 4 AM returned from
Piviera. Capt Hart assumed duties of Bn S-2 and Lt Barthold assumed
command of B Company. Bn received official instructions on recog-
nition of Soviet ground forces; but there were no reports of any con-
tact.

25 April 45: Rest and maintenance continued. A picture show was held
in the afternoon. One platoon of B Co was part of a small task force
which made an armored patrol to the east to locate and break up a sus-
pected enemy troop concentration. Small groups of enemy were found,

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25 April 45 cont'd: but no important concentration was discovered. Our troops suffered no casualties, estimated 5 enemy killed, and knocked out one Observation Post.

26 April 45: Rest and maintenance continued. Picture show was held in the evening at Bn CP.

27 April 45: Rest and maintenance continued. Battalion received quota of 4 Coca-Colas per individual; except for a few men it was the first taste of Coca Cola since our arrival on the continent. Although only a small item, it added considerably to the morale of the men. A picture show as held at 1000 in the morning for B and C companies and at 1400 for Company A. Another showing at 1900 was held for Hq Co. Troops assignment list was received, assigning 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion to First Army as of 22 April 1945.

28 April 45: Rest and maintenance continued. Lt Mills assumed duties of B Co executive. Co C moved to Lichtenstein (K4541); the platoons, however, made no appreciable change in positions. Shows were held at Bn CP in the afternoon and evening.

29 April 45: Rest and maintenance continued. Shows were held at Bn CP in the afternoon and evening. 22 PW's surrendered to a ~~messenger~~ messenger who was on a routine trip.

30 April 45: Rest and maintenance continued. Troops were paid, the stable situation permitting virtually all men to be paid promptly.

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