

RESTRICTED

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

. 3 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Historical Records for Period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 89th Infantry Division, APO No. 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 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 are transmitted herewith.

FOR THE BATTALION COMMANDER:

Clyde Berry
CYDE BERRY,
WOJG, USA,
Asst. Adjutant.

3 Incls:

- 1 - Staff Summaries & Unit Journal.**
- 2 - S-3 Periodic Reports.**
- 3 - Incoming and Outgoing Messages.**

89-631

22 JUN 1945
12659

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

SUMMARY OF ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, 602 I. D. BATTALION 1 MARCH 1945 TO 31 MARCH 1945

I.	<u>STRENGTH:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	1 March 1945	34	1	576
	31 March 1945	34	1	597
II.	<u>CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	a. Killed in action	0	0	0
	b. Died of wounds	0	0	0
	c. Wounded	1	0	6
	d. Injured	0	0	0
	e. Captured	0	0	0
	f. Missing in action	0	0	0
	g. Interned	0	0	0
	h. Hospitalized (sick)	1	0	11
	TOTAL:	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17</u>
III.	<u>REPLACEMENTS:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	a. Requisitioned during period	0	0	0
	b. Received during period	0	0	24
IV.	<u>CASUALTIES RETURNING TO DUTY:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>

V. a. Decorations Awarded:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
S/Sgt Harold T. Haynes	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
S/Sgt Julius S. Orsak	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
1st Sgt James T. Wilson	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Sgt Ravil B. Branham	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Sgt Warden Corum	Co C, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Sgt James B. McCarthy	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Sgt Marion F. Meredith	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Cpl Raymond W. Berg	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Cpl Bruno J. Kowalski	Co C, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Tec 5 Jesse James	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Tec 5 Howard L. Dean	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
S/Sgt Norman McGowen	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Silver Star
Capt Walter D. Hart	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Croix De Guerre
S/Sgt Otha H. Shannon	Co B, 602nd TD Bn	Croix De Guerre

b. Final action is pending on the following recommendations:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
William L. Still, Capt	Rcn Co, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
John B. Coulston, Capt	Hq, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
M/Sgt John S. Terpstra	Hq Co, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
S/Sgt Harold T. Haynes	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Sgt Thomas C. Connor	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Sgt Willie L. Deering	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star
Pfc John N. McPherson	Co A, 602nd TD Bn	Bronze Star

RESTRICTED

~~SECRET~~ SECRET

c. Number of personnel authorized Purple Heart during Period:

OFF
1

WO
0

EM
6

VI. PRISONERS CAPTURED AND EVACUATED DURING PERIOD: OFF: 10 EM: 1797

VII. COMMENDATIONS:

One commendation was received during the period (see copy attached)

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Personnel section moved from Gindorf, Germany to vicinity of Fels, Luxembourg to work with 89th Infantry Division Administrative Echelon.
- b. No change in previous month in the handling of mail.
- c. Special Service:
 1. Lt. Pilaroscia, Hq Co, assumed the additional duty as Bn Special Service Officer. Four radios were obtained and issued to the companies.
 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. Passes: Three officers and twelve enlisted men visited Paris, France on 72 hour passes during the period.

~~SECRET~~ SECRET

SECRET

**CUMULATIVE LOSSES INFLECTED AGAINST THE ENEMY DURING PERIOD 28 AUGUST 1944
TO 31 MARCH 1945**

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>CO A</u>	<u>CO B</u>	<u>CO C</u>	<u>RCN CO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tanks	23	14	6	0	43
Tanks Damaged	0	3	0	0	3
Flak Guns	4	5	6	0	15
Anti Tank Guns	14	19	5	2	40
Armored Cars	3	1	1	0	5
Rcn Cars	1	1	0	0	2
Machine Guns	13	7	11	1	32
Mortars	3	4	3	0	10
Observation Posts	9	8	5	0	22
Trucks	8	17	8	0	33
Half Tracks	2	1	2	0	5
88 MM & other Artillery	5	6	4	0	15
Ammunition Dumps	1	0	0	0	1
Pillboxes	4	6	18	0	28
Locomotives	0	0	3	0	3
Personnel	193	155	261	16	625
P.W.'S	382	1233	407	92	2114

**CUMULATIVE LOSSES SUSTAINED FROM THE ENEMY DURING THE PERIOD 28 AUGUST 1944
TO 31 MARCH 1945**

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>HQS</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

RESTRICTED

~~SECRET~~

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

During the period 1 March 1945 to 10 March 1945 Battalion less Companies B and C operated under VIII Corps Control. Companies B and C remained under control of 6th Cavalry Group. From 11 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 the entire battalion worked with 89th Infantry Division.

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

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

I. Class I Supplies:

- a. No change in supply system from preceding month.
- b. No change from preceding month.

II. Class II Supplies:

- a. No change from preceding month.

III. Class III Supplies:

- a. No change from preceding month.

IV. Class IV Supplies:

- a. No change from preceding month.
- b. No change from preceding month.

~~RESTRICTED~~

REFLECTED

UNIT JOURNAL

1 March 45: Co A furnished 90 men, Recon Co furnished 21 men from 1st Platoon (in addition to 21 men from 3rd platoon who were already detailed) to guard vital railroad bridges and tunnels.

2 March 45: Co B knocked out one tank, one observation post and took four prisoners. Co C and Co B continued advance with the 6th Cavalry Group and reported 400 rounds HE in current drive. Hq Co sent 12 men out on bridge guard and Recon Co sent 18 more. One new officer was received and sent to Co C.

3 March 45: Captain Coulston and 4 enlisted men went on pass to Paris. Three men returned to duty and 27 new men were received. All new men were from Armored Force Training Center, had 6 months in the army, and had no combat experience. The additions brought the Battalion to full T/O strength except for one officer and one warrant officer.

Co B knocked-out 3 OP's, 2 machine guns, 2 pillboxes, destroyed a road block, took 57 prisoners, and killed 22 enemy.

4 March 45: Co B and C reached Kyll River with Cavalry. Second Platoon Rcn Co reverted to control of Rcn Co and returned to Ourthe, Belgium. All replacements received day before were assigned to Co A, and Capt Oliver began a course of instruction to acquaint them with TD equipment and tactics.

5 March 45: 2nd Platoon Rcn Co replaced some of the Co A men on bridge guard in order to make available more instructors for the new men. Word was received that B and C companies were moving with the 6th Cavalry Group to the Corps' north flank. Billeting party went out to select new location for Bn CP.

6 March 45: Bn CP moved to Winterspelt, Germany, VP 9180, setting up the CP on German soil for the first time. Capt Oliver and 4 enlisted men left for 72 hour pass in Paris. Major Conlin left for 3 day leave in London. Report on Co C's operations for 3rd and 4th March; Knocked out 6 machine guns and one OP, killed 46 enemy, and captured 50 enemy.

7 March 45: B and C companies took up positions with the Cavalry on the Corps' north flank. Word was received that our men would be relieved from bridge guards the next day.

8 March 45: All men were relieved from bridge guard. Hq, Rcn and A prepared to move on Bn order to vicinity of Bleialf, Germany.

9 March 45: B and C companies under control of the 6th Cavalry advanced toward the Rhine. The extent of their progress could not be determined. Hq, Rcn and Co A moved to vicinity of Bleialf, Germany.

10 March 45: Co B knocked out one truck, took 462 prisoners. All other elements remained in position in Corps Reserve.

11 March 45: Bn received warning order to expect a long move. At 1915 word was received that the Bn complete was attached to XII Corps. Lt Cage and Lt Crouch left immediately to contact XII Corps at Bitburg.

RESECRET

12 March 45: Bn (less B and C) left vicinity of Bleialf at 0600 and arrived vicinity of Dudeldorf at 1000. Total distance traveled 45 miles. Bn CP and Hq located in Lindorf, Rcn at Picklisseim, Co A at Ordorf. B and C companies left their areas vicinity Kelberg and closed in Dudeldorf at 1400. Bn attached to 89th Infantry Division upon arrival. Co A is to be attached to 353 Inf Regiment, B Co to 354th Inf Regiment.

13 March 45: Co A moved with Regiment to Bad Bertrich; 1st and 2nd Rcn platoons went with Co A and Co B respectively. The rest of the Bn moved to Immerath. Companies in the line met little resistance. Lt. Whitman and 4 enlisted men went on pass to Paris.

14 March 45: No change in dispositions.

15 March 45: Bn less C attached to 353 Inf Regiment; Co C attached to 354th Inf Regiment. Plans made for crossing Moselle River, main effort to be made by 353rd Inf Regt. Hq Co moved to Driesch.

16 March 45: Bn CP moved to Bueren. Also Rcn CP, with Pion Platoon, moved to Bueren. "A" Co with 1st Plat Rcn Co crossed Moselle to Merl. Co B with 2nd Plat Rcn, crossed Moselle to Neef, and captured 6 PW's. Co C with 3rd Plat Rcn Co was attached to 355th Inf Regt, prepared to moved with 11th Armored Division through zone of 89th Inf Division.

17 March 45: Bn CP moved to Merl. Co A moved out to the east with the 353rd, to Moritzheim. Bn less Co A and C was attached to 354th Inf Regt. Co C with 355th Inf Regt followed 11th Armored Division in their attach to the east.

18 March 45: Bn CP moved to Raversbueren (L6351), Co A to Panzweiler (L6958), B Co to Gosenroth (L7043), Co C to Kerchburg (L7649). Resistance was negligible, the weather was clear, the roads were good, and progress was excellent.

19 March 45: Bn less Co C attached to Division again with mission of protecting Division and Corps right flank. Hq Co moved to Raversbueren. Rcn and Bn CP moved to Buchenbueren (L6747), Co A to Immenach (L6147), Co B stayed in Gosenroth, Co C moved to Kirn (L8032). Total prisoners taken 42. Co A took the two towns of Bueren and Immenach. Pioneer platoon reduced two road blocks. At 2100 Bn received additional mission of protecting flank after crossing Nahe River.

20 March 45: B Co with 2nd Rcn Platoon and Pioneer platoon moved out at 0730 and by 1030 had crossed the river at Fischbach. Co A with 1st and 3rd Recon platoons moved out along a northern route parallel to B Co. Bn less C by nightfall was in vicinity of Mittelreidenbach (WL7925). By 0800 Co C had crossed the river at Kirn and by nightfall had reached Lautersheim (WM 2610). This particular day proved to be the most successful in the history of the battalion. No complete reports on Co C could be obtained, but their progress carried them almost to the Rhine River. Co A took over 200 prisoners, B Co took over 400 prisoners. The two companies cleared a half-dozen towns on the Division flank and made contact with the 16th Cavalry Squadron from the

RESECRETED

20 March 45 cont'd: XX Corps, near Fischbach on the Nahe River. The Battalion suffered no casualties. B Co knocked out or overran 1 tank, 4 artillery pieces, 4 mortars, and 13 anti-tank guns.

21 March 45: Co C moved on to Forchheim (WM 4212) was detached from 355th Inf Regt, and assembled in place. A and B took six more small towns in the area, but did not change their CP's. 133 more prisoners were taken by A, B, and Rcn, including 7 officers. Hq Co moved from Ravershuren to Obereidenbach (WL 8023) B captured 3 anti-tank guns and one mortar. C Co took 389 PW's.

22 March 45: Companies performed maintenance and remained in place.

23 March 45: No change.

24 March 45: Bn CP moved to Beltheim (L 8067) and A, B, and C and Rcn assembled in the same vicinity.

25 March 45: Co A attached to Task Force Ingell. B and C Companies attached to Task Force Johnson prepared to exploit bridgehead across Rhine to be made at 2602000.

26 March 45: Division crossings were successful, but no bridge was put in. Both task forces went up through the 87th Inf Div AREA and crossed the Rhine at Boppard. They then cut south in rear of the 89th Division bridgehead and eased the pressure sufficiently that a bridge could be started. Task Force Johnson then headed east and went approximately 10 kilometers to Struth. Task Force Ingell ran into some opposition and rugged terrain and remained in the vicinity of Kaub.

27 March 45: Task Force Johnson moved on to Kemel, another 10 kilometers east against only scattered resistance. Task Force Ingell was unable to advance beyond Presberg, some 8 kilometers east of the river. Capt Hart was wounded and evacuated. Lt Barthold took over command of Co B. Co A killed 14 3rd Army enlisted men and 1 officer on a river boat and knocked out 4 flak guns.

28 March 45: Bn CP, Rcn CP, and Hq Co crossed Rhine and moved to Dor-scheid. B and C with Task Force Johnson advanced to Bad Schwalbach, some 25 kilometers east of the Rhine. A Co did not advance. Co C got 1 self propelled Mark IV tank. Co B got 5 flak guns, 11 trucks 4 trailers, and took 707 enlisted PW's and 8 officer PW's including 2 Colonels. At 2000 hrs the two task forces, having completed their missions were disbanded. A was attached to 355 Inf Regt, B to 354th Inf Regt and C to 353rd Inf Regt for the next day's operations.

29 March 45: Companies worked with their respective regiments in cleaning up the remaining pockets in the zone. Co C got 6 flak guns. Small groups of prisoners continued to surrender without a fight.

30 March 45: Bn CP, Hq, and Rcn moved to Kemel (M2074). Capt Hart re-operations continued satisfactorily.

31 March 45: Bn CP moved to Bad Schwalbach blocks in 354 Inf Regt sector, but the area was quiet. All companies performed maintenance.

RESTRICTED
 AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 J. M. ...
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

SECRET

RESTRICTED