

HEADQUARTERS

603 D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (SP) APO 340, US Army.

30 August 1945

Subject: Operations and results of TD activities for the 603 Tank Destroyer Battalion for the period July 28, 1944 to April 30, 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 6th Armored Division, APO 256, US Army.
(Attention: Chief of Staff)

July
28

Company A, Company B, and Reconnaissance Company attached to Combat Command "A". Company C attached to Combat Command "B".

29-31

Units supported advance of commands to the Granville-Avranches road.

August
1-15

B Company attached to Reserve Command. Reconnaissance Company did reconnaissance for Combat Command "A". Near Kermelec A Company silenced enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Near Plabennec another machine gun position, 1 truck, and 1 motorcycle were destroyed. The second platoon of B Company assisted in the capture of 276 EM and 5 officers at St. Pabee. At avignac the first platoon of C Company fought its way out of an ambush, killing seven and wounding others. At Gouesnou the first and third platoons fought a rear guard action, killing 3 members of a mortar squad and about 5 foot troops.

16-31

Before Brest six destroyers of A Company went out on an offensive mission, destroying 2 150 mm guns, damaging another, and destroying 2 concrete emplacements. From 21st to 31st A Company supported the 83d Division with indirect fire-700 rounds fired. One platoon of B Company shelled the town of Concarneau and sank one flakboat in the harbor. One platoon of C Company shelled the town of Concarneau and helped effect the surrender of 99 soldiers.

1-31

Reconnaissance Company led Combat Command "A" in its dash down to Brest. Numerous skirmishes were had with German patrols and automatic weapon ambushes. At Antrain, Broons, Poullaouen, and Huelgoat sharp encounters were had with German Forces. On August 10th the first platoon effected the surrender of 125 soldiers. The next day over 200 enemy were rounded up. In all Reconnaissance Companies took over 500 prisoners in the Brest campaign by negotiations or battle. At one point the Germans were forced from their coastal defenses and had to destroy 3-8" coastal guns in concrete emplacements. At another point 5-75 mm field pieces with crews were overrun and destroyed. 1 half-track and 2 staff cars were destroyed and approximately 100 soldiers killed or wounded by Reconnaissance Company in their dash to Brest.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed	1	0	7 EM
Wounded	4	0	23 EM
Missing			12 EM



Enemy casualties were:

- 2 AT guns
- 1 Arty gun
- 4 AA guns
- 4 Pillboxes
- 1 AA Flak-boat
- 1 Gun emplacement
- 948 Prisoners

September

- 1-10 A Company supported the 83d Division in operations against Brest, 103 rounds fired direct and 1476 rounds indirect. B Company held high ground east of Hennebont. C Company not operational this period.
- 11-20 Units not operational, moving from Brittany to Lorris, France. From 18th to 20th C Company occupied defensive positions in Luneville.
- 21-30 Company A supported Combat Command "A" in its attack south from Gremecey Forest taking the high ground around Jallaucourt, Lemoncourt, and Fossieux. Against a counterattack at Fossieux one platoon reorganized as foot troops and drove the enemy off destroying one MK IV tank. B Company not active. C Company supported Combat Command "A" in its attack south from Gremecey Forest. At Armaucourt the third platoon destroyed one ammunition dump, shelled the town heavily, and took 150 prisoners. The first platoon on the right flank destroyed 5 wheeled vehicles, 5 horse drawn vehicles, 7 machine gun positions, assisted in taking 75 prisoners, and killed or wounded approximately 150 in operations from Armaucourt to some five miles north of Arroye-et-Han. Reconnaissance Company served as left flank guard for Combat Command "A" in the push from Gremecey Forest. 2 horse drawn vehicles and 3 wheeled vehicles were destroyed, 19 prisoners taken, and 12 enemy killed in operations. In the vicinity of Leyr a heavy counterattack was broken on the 25th with 30 enemy killed, 20 wounded, and 29 captured.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed	-	-	-
Wounded	1	0	14 EM
Missing	-	-	-



Enemy casualties were:

- 1 MK IV tank
- 10 Machine guns
- 1 Pillbox
- 4 Motor vehicles
- 17 Houses
- 10 HD vehicles
- 26 Prisoners

October

- 1 Company B, reinforced, supported the attack of Combat Command "A" north of Gremecey Forest to objective - Lemoncourt to Fresnes. Company A supported the attack of Reserve Command to the objective north of Chambrey. One 88 mm AT gun destroyed.
- 2-7 One platoon of C Company remained in position before Moirvon.
- 8-9 Company B supported the attack by Combat Command on Chenicourt. Company C supported Combat Command B's attack on Moirvon, Jeandelinourt, and Chenicourt. At Jeandelinourt 1 AT gun was destroyed and about 100 prisoners taken. Company A supported the attack by Combat Command A on Chenicourt, Letricourt, and Bois-des-Trappes. 2 machine

guns were destroyed at Chenicourt.

10-17 A Company remained on an alert status in the vicinity of Bouxieres.

18-30 Companies B and C occupied indirect firing positions near Armaucourt and fired nightly harassing problems.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel.

Killed	1	0	5 EM
Wounded			11 EM
Missing			1 EM

Enemy casualties were:

1	AT gun
2	Arty guns
2	MG
105	Prisoners

November

1 Company B, and Company C fired nightly harassing missions from near Armaucourt.

2 Company C fired 8 harassing missions.

3- 6 Company A fired nightly harassing missions.

7 Battalion organized and prepared for attack.

Company B attached to Combat Command "A".

1st platoon with Task Force "G"

3rd platoon with Task Force "D"

Company B (-) and 1 reconnaissance platoon attached to Reserve Command

Company C attached to Combat Command "B".

1st platoon with Task Force 2

2nd platoon with Task Force 3

3rd platoon with Task Force 1

Company C (-) and 1 reconnaissance platoon with reserve.

Company A attached to Reserve Command

1st platoon with Task Force Forest

Company A (-) with Task Force Brown

603 TD Bn (-) attached to Reserve Command and Task Force Brown

10-12 In the attack on Vigny, Buchy, and Solgne, C Company captured 13 prisoners and destroyed 1 MK IV tank, 2 150 mm rifles, 2 88 mm AT guns, and 1 75 mm pack howitzer. At Sanry-sur-Nied C Company destroyed 2 wheeled vehicles, 2 AT guns, and blew up an ammunition dump, west of Sorbey. On the route from Buchy to Han-sur-Nied the first Platoon accounted for 3 MK VI tanks, 7 MK IV tanks, 1 MK III tank, 1 assault gun, 2 75 mm AT guns, 3 supply trucks, and 1 command car.

12 Battalion reorganized as follows:

Combat Command A

1st platoon Company B - Task Force Stablein

3rd platoon Company B - Task Force Duvall

1st platoon Company A - Task Force Forest

Company B (-) to reserve

Combat Command B

3rd platoon Company C - Task Force Lagrew (1)

1st platoon Company C - Task Force Wall (2)

2nd platoon Company C - Task Force Brindle (3)

Company C (-) to reserve.

Reserve Command

Company A (-) - Task Force Brown

Bn (-) - Task Force Brown



- 13-15 In the attack on Hery A Company lost 2 M-18's, 2 half-track flak carriers, 1 88 mm AT gun, and 2 machine guns were destroyed in the battle. One M-18 continued to fire after 3 feet had been shot off the gun muzzle. In repulsing heavy counterattacks in Landroff A Company destroyed 1 MK IV tank and 1 assault gun and killed many foot troops. Supporting the attacks on Arraincourt, Many, Suisse, Thicourt, and Thonville, B Company knocked out 1 MK IV tank, 3 AT guns, and 3 Pillboxes. One armored car was knocked out by C Company in moving through Bayoncourt, Vaucremont, Voinhaut, and Vittoncourt.
- 16-18 Companies A and B supported the attack of Combat Command "A" in taking Boustroff, Chemery, Adelange, Eincheville, and Villers. 2 88 mm AT guns, 6 machine guns, and 2 pillboxes were destroyed in this fighting. At Cote-de-Suisse the third platoon of B Company destroyed 4 machine guns and 1 truck and took 19 prisoners.
- 19-20 Company C supported the attack of Combat Command "B" north-east of Morhange. In the vicinity of Gros-Tenguin the 2nd and 3rd platoons destroyed 3 MK V tanks, 3 concrete pillboxes, 1 ammunition truck, 1 half-track with 20 mm AA gun, 1 reconnaissance car, 1 88 mm AT gun, and captured 9 prisoners.
- 21-23 Company C and 2 platoon of Company A supported Combat Company "B" in the vicinity of Hellimer. 3 MK IV tanks, 1 MK XVI, and 1 AT gun were destroyed before Hellimer. Companies C and A continued to support the attack north-east to St. Jean Rohrbach. 1 MK IV tank, 1 MK VI tank, and 1 57 mm AT gun were destroyed in the vicinity of St. Jean.
- 24-25 Companies A and C continued to support the attack north and north-east from St. Jean. 1 88 mm AT gun and 1 armored car were destroyed north-east of St. Jean Rohrbach.
- 26-30 All companies occupied outposts as the action slowed down temporarily.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed	1	0	8	EM
Wounded	6	0	36	EM
Missing	-	-	-	-



Enemy casualties were:

4	MK VI tanks
10	MK V tanks
15	MK IV tanks
9	SP guns
20	AT guns
8	AA guns
20	MG
20	Pillboxes
5	Mortar Vehicles
2	Half-tracks
9	Motars
2	Armored Vehicles
59	Prisoners

December

- 3 Company A was attached to Combat Command "A" and Task Force Brown and moved to an assembly area north of Cappel in preparation for attack. Company B attached to Combat ~~Company~~ Command "A" and Task Force Wall for the attack. Company C attached to Reserve Command.
- 4-6 Two platoons of Company A supported the drive through Ebering, Cadembornu, and Roubling. In the vicinity of Roubling 1 MK III tank 1 75 mm AT gun. 1 20 mm AA gun.

and 1 pillbox were destroyed.

B Company assisted in the taking of Farschviller, Diebling, Metzling, Hundling, Ipping, and Welferding. Near Diebling one MK V tank was knocked out.

18-23

Company C relieved units of the 691st TD Battalion in Morsbach and Theding.

Two platoons of B Company were dismounted and placed on the line in the vicinity of Welferding.

31

Company A supported Combat Command A in a limited objective attack near Wardin, Belgium.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed	1	0	-
Wounded	1	0	7 EM
Missing	-	-	-

Enemy casualties were:

1	MK V tank
1	AT gun
1	AA gun
1	Pillbox
1	mk III tank



January

1

Company C and 1 platoon of Company A attached to Combat Command B. Companies A and C supported the attack of the Division in the capture of Neffe, Bizory, and Mageret. Company A destroyed 2 MK V tanks, 1 self-propelled gun, and 1 armored car. Company C destroyed 2 AT guns.

2

2 platoons of B Company attached to Combat Command A. All Companies supported the Division advance. Company B destroyed 2 MK V tanks.

3

Companies A and B supported Combat Command A in an attack south of Wardin. Company B destroyed 2 MK V tanks, 2 MK IV tanks, 1 SP gun, 1 AT gun, and 1 truck.

4

8 platoons committed to hold the Division front against three strong counterattacks. Company A destroyed 1 MK V tank and 1 MK IV tank. Company C destroyed 6 SP guns and 1 MK V. 1 other tank possibly destroyed.

5

Three companies continued to help repulse strong counterattacks. Company A destroyed 1 MK VI tank, 1 US M-4, and 1 unidentified enemy tank. Company B destroyed 1 MK VI tank. 3 other tanks possibly destroyed but unverified.

6-8

Companies continued to fight off counterattacks. Company C destroyed 1 MK VI tank in the vicinity of Bizory.

9

Companies A and B supported the defense of Division sector and supported the attack on Wardin and the high ground to the south of Wardin. B Company destroyed 1 SP gun in the vicinity of Wardin.

13
14

Co B destroyed 4 Mkv tanks + 1 Mk III tank near Wardin. Companies A and B supported Combat Command A in clearing the woods east of Wardin and the town of Benonchamps. 2 platoons aided Combat Command B in securing the high ground north-east of Mageret.

15

Companies A and B supported the capture of Arloncourt. A Company destroyed 1 SP gun. Company C supported CT Byrne in capturing Oubourcy.

16

Companies A and B supported the Command in taking Longvilly. Company C supported CT Byrne in taking Michamps.

17

Company B supported TF Britton and Lagrew of Combat Command A in repulsing a counterattack. The first platoon destroyed 2 MK VI and 1 MK V tanks. Company C continued

with CT Byrne to its objective.

18-20

Companies in defensive positions. Following reorganization made for attacking:

- Company A 3rd platoon with Combat Command A
- 2nd platoon Company C with Combat Command A
- Company B with Combat Command B
- Company C-2nd platoon with CT Miltonberger

21-26

The Companies continued to support the Division in its drive north-east, through Troine, Lullange, Hoffelt, Weiler, Asselhorn, Troisvierges, Hachiville, and Basbellaine.

27-30

Platoons occupied positions on outposts in the Division sector.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed	1	0	3	EM
Wounded	1	0	38	EM
Missing	-	-	-	-



Enemy casualties were:

5	MK VI tanks
10	MK V tanks
3	MK IV tanks
11	SP guns
3	AT guns
1	M IV tank
5	Unidentified tanks
1	Truck
1	Armored car
4	MG
4	Vehicles
4	Other tanks
32	Prisoners

February

1-2

2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company made patrols to the Our River to determine size of river and enemy activity.

7-9

Company B supported the 19th Airborne Division in operations.

10-24

Company A and 1 reconnaissance platoon with Combat Command B
 Company B with Combat Command A
 Bn (-) with Reserve Command
 Companies supported the units attached to in crossing the Our River and in penetrating the Siegfried Line. About 30 pillboxes were destroyed or captured by the destroyer units in their assistance going through the Siegfried Line. Pioneer platoon of Reconnaissance Company cleared anti-tanks and anti-personnel minefields in the Combat Command A sector on both sides of the Our River.

25-27

Company A attached to Combat Command B and moved up to defend Prum-River.

28

One platoon of A Company crossed the Prum River with Task Force Brindle and one platoon crossed with Task Force Ward in establishing a bridgehead across the river. The 3rd platoon of Company C crossed the river with Task Force Brown to help take the high ground east of Lunebach.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed - -
Wounded 1 0 3 EM
Missing - -

Enemy casualties were:

30 Pillboxes
15 Prisoners



March

1

The 1st platoon of Company A crossed the Prum River with Task Force Ward and supported the advance to vicinity of Lierfeld. 3rd platoon of Company C assisted in the capture of Eilscheid and Dachscheid.

2

2nd platoon of Company A supported Task Force Brindle in the attack east from Lierfeld. 3rd platoon supported Task Force Kennedy in taking high ground north of Matzerath.

3

3rd platoon of Company C supported Task Force Brown in securing bridgehead across Nims River south of Wetteldorf. Company A supported Combat Command B in its advance to Nims River.

15

The following attachments were made for future operations.

Company A with 86th Cavalry Squadron
Company B with Combat Command A
Company C with Combat Command B

20-21

Company A supported the 86th Cavalry Squadron in a 62 mile advance from Herbelzheim to Bockenheim. Company B supported the advance of Combat Command A from Sarrage-mines to the Rhine River. Company C supported the 100 mile advance of Combat Command B from Dehlingen to Ebertheim. In the vicinity of Zweibrücken Company C destroyed 1 88 mm AT gun in a pillbox and 1 150 mm field piece and aided in the destruction of a horse drawn column of 10 vehicles. Reconnaissance Company supported CT Dunvall in an advance from Sarre Union to Kerzenheim.

22

1st platoon of Company B destroyed 1 MG nest and 1 river barge by firing across the Rhine.

25-26

Units crossed the Rhine River with their Commands and supported the advance to Frankfurt-am-Main.

29

Reconnaissance Company attached to Combat Company B. Company A destroyed an ammunition train at a range of 5000 yards.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed 1 0 6 EM
Wounded 4 0 8 EM
Missing 1 0 1 EM

Enemy casualties were:

1 MK V tank
1 SP gun
8 AT guns
1 Arty gun
1 Pillbox
1 River barge
1 MG
1 Ammunition train
10 GP vehicles
97 Prisoners

April

- 1 Company A supported the 86th Reconnaissance Squadron in establishing a bridgehead over the Fulda River south of Kassel.
- 2 Company C destroyed 4 SP guns and bottled up 6 more for capture before Bad Soden.
- 3 Company C shot down 1 FW 190 and destroyed 4 SP guns in their advance. Reconnaissance Company destroyed a railroad locomotive in the vicinity of Warfried. Reconnaissance Company secured the only bridge across the Werra River at Gr. Burschla. Company A attached to the 3rd cavalry Group at Gudensburg. Company B attached to the 80th Inf. Division at Deissen.
- 4 Reconnaissance and C Company supported activities around Mühlhausen.
- 5 Company C shot down 1 FW 190.
- 7-9 Reconnaissance Company attached to the 86th Reconnaissance Squadron and outposted the northern sector of the Division zone. Company B destroyed 1 MK V tank with an incendiary grenade. C Company destroyed 3 SP guns south east of Schlotheim.
- 10 Company B aided in outposting the Division's north flank.
- 11 Units supported the Division's rapid advance to the east.
- 12 Company C supported Combat Command B's advance to August and outposted the town.
- 13-15 Reconnaissance, B and C Companies supported the Division advance east of the Weisse-Elster River to the Mulde River and across the Mulde River.
- 16-18 Units occupied positions outposting the Division zone.
- 19-30 Entire battalion moved to Zeitz and set up military control of the town.

Reconnaissance Company.

During the period 29 March to 4 April Reconnaissance Company led different task forces of Combat Command B. During this period the company destroyed or captured much material in their advance. About 75 enemy were killed, over 800 taken prisoner, 45 GP vehicles, 9 half tracks, 2 machine guns, 4 AA guns, 1 locomotive, 1 truck, 5 SP guns 1 MK VI tank, 30 motorcycles, 20 trailers, and 1 M-4 tank were knocked out or captured by elements of Reconnaissance Company as they spearheaded the drive to the east of Mühlhausen.

Our casualties for this period were:

Personnel

Killed	1	0	4	EM
Wounded			13	EM
Missing	-	-	-	-



Enemy casualties were:

1	MK VI tank
1	MK V tank
31	SP guns
11	AT guns
3	Armored cars
2	MG
93	GP vehicles
1	Locomotive
2	FW 190
1	M4
over 800	Prisoners

For the Commanding Officer:

Richard J. Healy
 RICHARD J. HEALY
 Capt., Inf.
 S-3