

S E C R E T

Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

APO 230, U.S. Army
1 May 1945

SUBJECT: History of 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion for Month of April 1945.

TO : Commanding General, V Corps, APO 305, U.S. Army.
(THRU Channels)

- a. Original Unit.
Completed.
- b. Changes in Organization.
This organization continued to be attached to V Corps, 3rd TD Group, and 2d Infantry Division from 1 April to 27 April. Relieved from attachment to 3rd TD Group V Corps on 27 April and attached to 1st TD Group VII Corps. Attachment to 2d Infantry Division remained unchanged.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
 - (1) At beginning of period - 38 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 599 enlisted men.
 - (2) At end of period - 36 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 566 enlisted men.
 - (3) Net change - Decrease of 2 officers and 33 enlisted men.
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.
 - (1) On 1 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 0810 hrs from positions at Homberg, Germany, G894377, and travelled a distance of 61.8 miles to new positions at Sachsenhausen, Germany, 891946, closing at 1340 hrs.
 - (2) On 6 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 0630 hrs from positions at Sachsenhausen, Germany, 891946, and travelled a distance of 34 miles to new positions at Grebenstein, Germany, 161179, closing at 0905 hrs.
 - (3) On 8 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1325 hrs from positions at Grebenstein, Germany, 161179, and travelled a distance of 21 miles to new positions at Dransfeld, Germany, 404246, closing at 1545 hrs.



S E C R E T

SECRET

- (4) On 9 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1445 hrs from positions at Dransfeld, Germany, 404246, and travelled a distance of 18.5 miles to new positions at Rittmarshausen, Germany, 647233, closing at 1630 hrs.
- (5) On 11 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1040 hrs from positions at Rittmarshausen, Germany, 647233, and travelled a distance of 25 miles to new positions at Sollstedt, Germany, 948166, closing at 1335 hrs.
- (6) On 12 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1150 hrs from positions at Sollstedt, Germany, 948166, and travelled a distance of 33.8 miles to new positions at Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, 342118, closing at 1705 hrs.
- (7) On 13 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1045 hrs from positions at Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, 342118, and travelled a distance of 29.8 miles to new positions at Gohrendorf, Germany, 732133, closing at 1245 hrs.
- (8) On 17 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1150 hrs from positions at Gohrendorf, Germany, 732133, and travelled a distance of 27.4 miles to new positions at Bad Durrenberg, Germany, 020089, closing at 1445 hrs.
- (9) On 19 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed at 1100 hrs from positions at Bad Durrenberg, Germany, 020089, and travelled a distance of 9 miles to new positions at Mark Ranstadt, Germany, 123094, closing at 1125 hrs.
- (10) On 21 April Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP departed 1415 hrs from positions at Mark Ranstadt, Germany, 123094, and travelled a distance of 35.4 miles to new positions at Bad-Lausick, Germany, 433944, closing at 1635 hrs.

e. Marches.
None.

f. Campaigns.
No change.

g. Battles.

(1) Central Germany Offensive.

Enemy - The enemy's supporting armor consisted of a limited amount of tanks and SP guns which were committed in a piece-meal fashion. Main defenses opposing our advance consisted of road blocks, blown bridges and fixed heavy anti-aircraft gun positions which were used as direct fire weapons. When these defenses were reduced, the enemy was able to offer



SECRET

but slight resistance to our drive to the Mulde River, with the exception of the city of Leipsig, where the enemy put up a stiff defense. The terrain was generally open and rolling, with little wooded country and a minimum of water barriers, with the exception of the Weser and Saale Rivers. With the exception of seven or eight tanks, the enemy showed no supporting armor during the period. The greatest amount committed at any one time was three. Of these three, all were destroyed. Main defenses consisted of fixed anti-aircraft positions protecting the Merseberg, Leuna, Halle, Leipsig Area, which were used as direct fire weapons to oppose our advance. Other methods of defense used were road blocks, panzerfauste teams and fortified buildings. Defenses of Leipsig consisted of machine gun emplacements, fortified buildings, and panzerfauste teams. The terrain encountered during the period was generally open and rolling and at times broke out into a flat plain. The Weser and Saale Rivers were encountered as the attack progressed towards the east but were crossed without difficulty.

Action - During this period this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-tank protection for the 2d Infantry Division and CCA 9th Armored Division. From 1 April to 3 April Company C (2d Rcn plat attached) was attached to 36th Infantry Regiment and further attached to CCA 9th Armored Division, spearheading the northern prong of V Corps attack and pursuit through Central Germany. 2d Rcn platoon acting as point for the combat command destroyed 11 machine guns, 8 strong points containing panzerfausts and riflemen, 1 general purpose vehicle and 1 motorcycle, captured 97 prisoners, killed or wounded 35 enemy soldiers. Company A in support of 9th Infantry captured 16 prisoners and Company B in support of 23d Infantry captured 8 prisoners while following closely behind the armored spearheads mopping up by-passed pockets. On 4 April Company A was attached to 9th Infantry, Company B attached to 23d Infantry and Company C was attached to the 38th Infantry and the attack continued. On 7 April Company B fired on one Mark V and two Mark IV tanks, destroying one and damaging the two others. Third platoon Company B destroyed two anti-tank guns and one machine gun, killing 20 enemy and capturing 3. During the attack on Bahern, Germany, 350250, Company B destroyed 6 20mm AA guns and 2 machine guns, killing 23 enemy. On 9 April Company A destroyed one ammunition vehicle, one horse-drawn vehicle and killed 10 and captured 14 prisoners. Also fired 25 rounds APC at 3 Mark V tanks with unknown results. Company C fired 23 rounds APC at 4 Mark VI tanks with unknown results due to long ranges. Company B supported attack on Göttingen,

- 3 -

SECRET

S E C R E T

Germany (520280) with 50 caliber machine guns. On 10 April, Company D while supporting the attack on Duderstadt, Germany (0770270), destroyed one self-propelled 75mm anti-tank gun, five general purpose vehicles, killed 35 enemy and captured 76 prisoners. 3d platoon Company C was attached to 3d Battalion 38th Infantry and further attached to GCB 9th Armored Division. On 14 April Company B captured 30 prisoners and shot down an Mi 109 with 50 caliber machine gun fire. Companies supported the attacks on Leuna, Merseberg, and Mark-Ranstadt, where considerable opposition was offered by large caliber anti-aircraft guns used against ground targets, which were used to defend Leipzig. Companies supported the attack on Leipzig with direct fire and 50 caliber machine guns. Companies were relieved of attachments and placed in direct support on 21 April. On 23 April Company C fired 85 rounds at enemy strongpoints east of the Mulde river (484063), killing 20 enemy. On 26 April one section of 2B while on a patrol in an attempt to contact the Russians fired on and killed 12 enemy and captured 25 prisoners. On 27 April while on another contact patrol the 3d Recon platoon captured 97 prisoners. Companies A and B sent out patrols with the Infantry to contact the Russian armies for distances up to 25 kilometers from April 22 to 27. The following targets were destroyed by direct fire during the month of April:

Tanks Mk IV -----	2	(plus 1 probable)
Mk V -----	1	
SP AT 75mm -----	1	
General purpose vehicles -----	10	(plus 2 captured)
Anti-tank guns -----	2	
AA guns -----	6	
Machine guns -----	14	
Strong points and panzerfaust emplacements --	9	
Prisoners captured -----	453	
Estimated killed -----	168	



h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.
No change.

i. Losses in Action: Officers and Men.
Wounded

- 1st Lt Edward H. Farrington, 01824296, 1 April (not hosp)
- Sgt James M. Wiley, 20825565, 1 April (not hosp)
- Tec 5 Calvin W. Collins, 34501756, 1 April (not hosp)
- Pfc Garfield James, Jr., 35446369, 1 April (not hosp)
- Pfc Garsam P. Kamide, 32678769, 5 April
- Pfc Ezra C. Stroud, 35478560, 5 April
- Pfc Clyde Brewer, 34280509, 5 April
- Pvt Henry A. Polanski, 35831667, 5 April

Pfc Donald N. Frazier, 33418330, 5 April (not hosp)
 Tec 4 Walter F. Owens, 34535558, 5 April (not hosp)
 1st Lt Jack A. Scales, 02005244, 5 April (not hosp)
 Sgt Paul T. Cocchi, 12133355, 7 April (not hosp)
 Tec 5 Leo C. Gonser, 38349043, 7 April (not hosp)
 1st Lt Joseph C. Kosak, 01285771, 8 April (not hosp)
 Sgt Ansel N. Dreggors, 34535560, 8 April
 Tec 5 Fred C. Tidwell, 34524949, 8 April
 Pfc Ronayne G. White, 34501336, 8 April
 Pvt Richard N. Odle, 35904884, 8 April (not hosp)
 Pvt Sam DeLeon, 19098189, 8 April
 Sgt William T. Camper, 20451516, 13 April (not hosp)
 Pfc George L. Talley, 34774567, 13 April
 Pvt Ernest Price, 36775588, 13 April
 T/Sgt Lyle Netherly, 35352915, 15 April (not hosp)
 Cpl Lee R. Guillory, 34077356, 16 April
 Pfc Theodore Porreco, 35501355, 16 April
 Cpl Leonard L. Richardson, 36272191, 16 April
 Sgt William T. Lynch, 32277503, 16 April (not hosp)
 Sgt William T. Camper, 20451516, 17 April
 Pfc Ernest J. Letourneau, 31081195, 17 April
 1st Lt William J. Gribbin, 01824304, 18 April

Missing
 None.

Killed

Pvt Sherwin V. Samuelson, 36949019, 5 April
 Pfc Russell O. Helmick, 33390577, 16 April
 Pvt Wadia E. Menem, 38453966, 16 April

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.

(1) Bronze Star (Heroic Achievement)

Sgt Foy C. Peavy, 34579613, GO 35, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
 4 April 1945

(2) Bronze Star (Meritorious Service)

S/Sgt Clyde H. Rowland, 34536068, GO 35, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
 4 April 1945

Tec 5 Rex L. Dunn, 34501992, GO 46, 2d Inf Div,
 22 April 1945

S/Sgt Edward J. Hanley, 32421930, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
 22 April 1945

S/Sgt George L. McCloud, 32562582, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
 22 April 1945

1st Lt Jack A. Scales, 02055244, GO 46, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
 22 April 1945

T/Sgt Lyle Netherly, 35352915, GO 48, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
 24 April 1945.

k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.
 None.



S E C R E T

1. Miscellaneous.

(1) On 14 April 2d Lt John G. Stuempfle, 01824936, was promoted to 1st Lt per par 3, SO #102, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 14 April 1945, with date of rank 14 April 1945.

Henry S. Chapman, Jr.

HENRY S. CHAPMAN, JR.
1st Lt., FA (ED)
Bn Historical Officer



S E C R E T