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Hq, 612th TD Bn
 APO 230, New York, N.Y.
 1 Jan 45.

SUBJECT: History of 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion for Month of December, 1944.

TO : Commanding General, V Corps, APO 305, US Army.
 (Attn: Historical Section).

The following report is submitted as the history of the 612th TD Bn for the month of December 1944.

The strength of this organization on 1 December 1944 was 34 officers and 732 enlisted men. This battalion continued to be attached to the 2d Infantry Division, with Co A and the 1st and 2d Recon Platoons attached to Task Force "X". Co B in direct support of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, Co C (less 2nd Platoon) in direct support of the 38th Infantry Regiment, and the 2nd Platoon of Co C in direct support of the 9th Infantry Regiment.

On 2 December 1944, the 3rd Platoon of Co A captured one prisoner of war. On this same date 30 rounds of 3" ammunition was expended by Co C at enemy pillboxes and strongpoints. On 3 December 1944, Co C fired 20 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of APC, knocking out one enemy CP. On this same date, S Sgt William H. Brannon, Co A, S Sgt Alan G. Robertson, Co B, and Sgt Zabetakis, Stanley G., Co C, were appointed 2nd Lieutenants pursuant to TWX, Hq 1st US Army dated 1 December 1944, with date of rank 3 December 1944, and were assigned to their respective companies for duty.

On 5 December 1944, Co C fired 55 rds of 3" ammunition at enemy pillboxes and strongpoints, and on 7 December fired 20 rounds of HE and 5 rds of APC at German fortifications. On 7 December 1944 Pfc Rogers P. Tyndall, Co B, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Gallantry in Action per General Order No. 140, Hq 2d Infantry Division, dated 7 December 1944. On 8 December Co C fired 20 rds of HE and 5 rds of APC at enemy pillboxes and buildings. On 9 December 1944 Pvts Reevy C. Hensley and Raymond W. Hubler, Co A, were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement and Cpl David D. Barto, Co A, was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement per General Order No. 141, Hq 2d Inf Div dated 9 December 1944.

On 11 December 1944, one enlisted man of Co A was slightly wounded in action. On this same date the 820th TD Bn began to relieve the units of this organization and said relief was completed at 0130 hours on 12 December 1944. The 612th TD Bn was relieved from VIII Corps and was attached to V Corps effective 11 December 1944, pursuant to Troop Assignment

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No. 147, Hq 1st US Army, dated 13 December 1944. On 12 December 1944, the battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Sourbrodt, Belgium, coordinates K-854095. On 13 December, Co A was attached to the Regimental Combat Team of the 9th Infantry and moved to direct fire positions in the vicinity of Hofen, Germany, coordinates 953195. On 15 December 1944, the Battalion CP moved from Sourbrodt to the vicinity of Wirtzfeld, Belgium, coordinates 951042. On this same date the battalion was attached to the 3rd Tank Destroyer Group and remained attached to the 2nd Infantry Division pursuant to paragraph 2, Troop Assignment Letter, Hq V Corps, dated 15 December 1944. On 16 December the 1st Ren Platoon was attached to Co B, which in turn was attached to the 23rd Infantry Regiment, and Co C was in Division Reserve. At 0530 hours on 16 December 1944, the 3rd platoon of Co A was attacked by the enemy and 18 prisoners of war were captured by the 3rd platoon. In addition, the 1st platoon of Co A captured 3 prisoners of war, one machine gun nest, and mortar positions. One enlisted man of Co A was wounded in action as a result of these operations.

On 17 December 1944, Co B, with the 1st Ren platoon attached, was detached from 23rd Infantry Regiment and attached to the 99th Infantry Division, moving to the vicinity of Honsfeld, Belgium, coordinates 969991, taking up a position of readiness. An enemy attack from the southwest by enemy tanks and armored infantry resulted in the 1st and 2nd platoons of Co B and the 1st Ren platoon of Hq Co, being surrounded, with 3 officers and 110 enlisted men of Co B being reported as missing in action and 1 officer and 18 enlisted men of the 1st Ren platoon also reported as missing in action. During the course of this action the 1st Ren Platoon knocked out 3 enemy halftrack personnel carriers before being overrun by enemy infantry, the 1st platoon of Co B knocked out 2 SP anti-tank guns, and the 2d Platoon knocked out 1 enemy tank, before the platoon was knocked out by fire from enemy machine-guns. One enlisted man of the 1st Ren platoon, S Sgt Billy F. Wilson, escaped and was successful in returning to our lines, being wounded in action while infiltrating to safety. 1st Lt Gribbin, Tec 5 Charles R. Morris, and Pvt Ronayne G. White, after being reported as missing in action, returned to duty, having successfully escaped from the enemy. In addition, 3 enlisted men of the Medical Detachment, were reported as missing in action as a result of action on 17 Dec 1944. During the action Co A was in direct support of the 3rd Bn of the 395th Infantry Regiment, 99th Division. On this same date the Bn CP moved from Wirtzfeld, Belgium, to vicinity of Sourbrodt, Belgium, coordinates 854095. One enlisted man of Co C was slightly wounded in action this date but did not require evacuation.

On 18 December 1944, the 2nd Ren Platoon was attached to Co C, which in turn was placed in direct support of the 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. On this same date, the remnants of Co B were relieved from attachment to the 99th Infantry Division and placed in direct support of the 23rd Infantry Regiment. On this same date Co A was attacked by an enemy force estimated to be one regiment, and Co A

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was successful in fighting back this enemy counterattack. As a result 1 enlisted man, Sgt George S. Nuttall, 33 172 175, was killed in action. In addition, 1st Lt James R. Penton and 3 enlisted men were slightly wounded in action, 2 of the said enlisted men not requiring hospitalization. During the course of this action Co A killed 2 Germans and captured 5. On this same date the maintenance platoon and Co Hq of Hq Co under the command of 1st Lt Kosak, was attached to Task Force Hoke and maintained defensive positions southeast of Berg, Belgium, coordinates 921054.

On 19 December 1944, Co C plus the 2nd Recon Platoon was relieved from the 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, and placed in direct support of the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division. On this same date Co A was again attacked by a strong enemy force but the enemy was driven off. 11 enlisted men of Co A were reported as missing in action as a result of this engagement. 1st Platoon of Co A captured 11 prisoners of war on this date. On this same date Co C fired 5 rounds of APC at enemy tanks, results unknown.

On 20 December 1944, the maintenance platoon and Co Hq of Hq Co was relieved from their defensive positions occupied in the vicinity of Berg and returned to Hq Co's CP, vicinity of Sourbrodt. On this date a large caliber shell struck the Hq Co kitchen, causing 11 casualties, 8 of which required evacuation. Tec 5 Sidney A. Scarborough, later died as a result of wounds sustained from the enemy shell. In addition 1 man from the Medical Detachment was wounded as a result of the above mentioned shelling. On this same date Lt Col Dealey, Captain Rooney, and the S-3 Section left to establish an advance CP in Elsenborn at Dauntless Advance CP.

On 21 December 1944, Co A killed 5 enemy paratroopers and captured one. On this same date one enlisted man of Co C was slightly wounded in action, but did not require hospitalization. On 22 December one enlisted man of 2nd Recon Platoon and 2 enlisted men of Co A were wounded in action. On 23 December 1944, 1st Lt Hairston was slightly wounded in action but did not require hospitalization. On 24 December the Bn CP area was strafed 3 times by enemy aircraft, puncturing 6x6 truck tires, and setting afire an ammunition truck, which was extinguished by members of the Maintenance Platoon. On this same date 6 replacements were received from the 3rd Replacement Depot. On 25 December 1944, one enlisted man of Co A was wounded in action. On 27 December 1944, four replacements were received by this organization from the 3rd Replacement Depot.

On 28 December 1944, one enlisted man of Co A was wounded in action and one enlisted man of Co C was slightly wounded in action but did not require evacuation. On 29 December 1944, Co A was relieved by Co A of the 801st TD Bn at Hofen, and Co B relieved from support of the 23rd Infantry Regiment by Co B of the 801st TD Bn. The 612th TD Bn, less Co C, moved to an assembly area two miles East of Verviers, coordinates 725217, for the



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purpose of reorganization into a SP Battalion, pursuant to Secret Letter, Hq 1st US Army, dated 28 December 1944. On this same date 1 enlisted man of Co C was slightly wounded in action. On 30 December 1944, one enlisted man of Co C was slightly wounded in action, but did not require evacuation. On this same date, Capt George W. Scott was relieved from assignment as Bn Recon Officer and assigned to Hq Co for duty as Co Comdr, and Capt John B. Myers was relieved as CO of Hq Co and assigned as Maintenance and Repair Automotive Officer. 1st Lt Sanford A. Johnson was relieved from assignment to Hq Co and assigned to Recon Co for duty as Co Comdr, and 1st Lt Joseph C. Kosak was relieved from assignment to Hq Co and assigned to Recon Co for duty as Company Ex Officer. 1st Lt George E. Bruner was relieved from assignment to Co C and assigned to Recon Co for duty as platoon leader, and 1st Lt Lowell E. Sturup was relieved from assignment to Co B and assigned to Hq Co for duty as Hq Co Executive Officer. On this same date one enlisted man of Co C was slightly wounded in action, but did not require hospitalization. On 30 December 1944, 1st Lt Eugene T. Oborn from the 899th TD Bn was placed on SD with this organization to instruct personnel of this battalion on indirect fire. On 31 December 1944, fifteen replacements were received from the 3rd Replacement Depot.

The strength of this organization on 31 December 1944 was 33 officers and 569 enlisted men. Two changes in command occurred during this period, namely, Capt George W. Scott assuming command of Hq Co, upon Capt John B. Myers being assigned as Maintenance and Repair Automotive Officer, and 1st Lt Sanford A. Johnson assuming command of Reconnaissance Company.



JAMES B. KEMP
Major, Infantry
Commanding.

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