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Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

APO 230, U.S. Army
3 March 1945

SUBJECT: History of 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion for Month
of February 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 further attached to the 2d Infantry
Division.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
 - (1) At beginning of period - 37 officers, 1 warrant
officer, and 567 enlisted
men.
 - (2) At end of period - 37 officers, 1 warrant
officer, and 601 enlisted
men.
 - (3) Net change - Increase of 34 enlisted men.
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.
 - (1) On 3 February Battalion Forward CP departed at 1240
hours from its position at Camp Elsenborn and
travelled a distance of 12 miles to new position
at Rockerath, Belgium, coordinates (K974046), closing
at 1400 hours.
 - (2) On 4 February Battalion CP departed at 1015 hours
from its position at Sourbrodt, Belgium and travelled
a distance of 3.3 miles to new position at Camp
Elsenborn, Belgium, coordinates (K904084), closing
at 1105 hours.
 - (3) On 5 February Battalion CP departed at 1400 hours
from its position at Camp Elsenborn and travelled
a distance of 12 miles to new position at Rockerath,
Belgium, coordinates (K974046), closing at 1520 hours.
 - (4) On 7 February Battalion Forward CP departed at 0930
hours from its position at Rockerath, Belgium, and
travelled a distance of 10.4 miles to new position
at Harperscheid, Germany, coordinates (K066144),
closing at 1000 hours.

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- (5) On 21 February Battalion CP departed at 1320 hours from its position at Rockerath, Belgium and travelled a distance of 10.4 miles to new position at Hofen, Germany, coordinates (K949164), closing at 1425 hours.
- (6) On 23 February Battalion Forward CP departed at 1425 hours from its position at Harperscheid, Germany and travelled a distance of 17 miles to new position at Einruhr, Germany, coordinates (K043210), closing at 1510 hours.

e. Marches.
None.

f. Campaigns.
In addition to the campaigns for Normandy, Northern France, Germany (1), this organization was awarded Battle Participation Credit for Campaign Germany (2), pursuant to authority contained in letter ETOUSA, Subject, "Battle Participation Award Germany Campaign (2)", file AG 200.6 OpGA, dated 5 February 1945.

g. Battles.

- (1) Harperscheid, Schonesseiffen, Hellenthal Offensive.
Enemy - With the exception of three or four SP assault guns the enemy had no supporting armor. Main defenses of the Monschau Forest sector consisted of log and earthen machine-gun emplacements, abattis and extensive mine fields. When forced to withdraw, the enemy retired into concrete pill boxes in the vicinity of Wohlerscheid crossroad. When these obstacles were reduced the enemy fought a delaying action back to the Schonesseiffen-Dreiborn ridge where he attempted to set up a defense line. A night attack caught the enemy unprepared and he was forced to retire to a new line along the eastern bank of the Olef river. The terrain was initially densely wooded, breaking into open broken terrain, a series of high bald hills with deep wooded valleys.
- Action - This organization was in active operations from 1 February to 28 February 1945. During this period this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-mechanized protection to the Second Infantry Division. From 1 February to 5 February Company "A" was attached to the 9th Infantry Regiment and supported their attacks on Schonesseiffen, Germany (F0414) and Harperscheid, Germany (F0614). Third platoon fired 4 rounds HE at a machine gun nest and knocked it out of action on 3 February. Company "B" was attached to the 23rd Infantry Regiment and supported their attack through the Monschau Forest. On 4 February Company "B" supporting infantry attack on Bronsfeld, Germany (F0814) knocked out two (2) pill box strong.

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points and one (1) machine gun emplacement with 23 rounds HE. The third platoon fired 5 rounds HE, killing and wounding six enemy. On 5 February Company "C" was in battalion reserve and was attached to 38th Infantry Regiment and supported their attack on Hellenenthal, Germany (F0811). On 8 February all companies were relieved from attachment and placed in direct support of the Infantry Regiments. Company "B" reverted to battalion reserve and surveyed one gun into indirect fire position with the 15th Field Artillery Battalion to fire illuminating shell on call of the infantry. Company "C" also had one gun with a similar mission with the 38th Field Artillery Battalion. These guns fired 12 missions, 48 rounds illuminating shell on request of the infantry commanders. On 15 February 1st section of the third platoon of Company "C" fired 138 rounds HE and APC at three strong points in Dickerscheid, Germany (F0708) from previously prepared positions, and killed or wounded an estimated 55 enemy, and on 21 February fired 57 rounds HE and APC into five strong points in Honningen, Germany (F0909), killing and wounding an estimated 32 enemy. Company "B" relieved elements of the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion in the vicinity of Herhahn, Germany (F0918) on 21 February and took up anti-tank positions protecting the 23rd Infantry Regiment from mechanized attack. Companies "A" and "C" were relieved by elements of the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion and they reverted to battalion reserve on 24 February. Company "A" then placed one destroyer in indirect fire with the 37th Field Artillery Battalion and assumed the mission of firing illuminating shells. During the period 227 rounds of ammunition were expended in direct fire and 109 rounds were expended while in indirect fire positions, of which 48 rounds were illuminating shell.

- h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.
On 19 February 1945 at 0001 hours Captain Thomas J. Davies assumed command of Headquarters Company from Captain George W. Scott, transferred to Battalion Staff as S-2.
- i. Losses in Action: Officers and Men.
Wounded
Tec 4 James E. Emerson, 34501769, 3 February
Cpl Albert H. Runco, 38104376, 4 February

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Tec 5 Sanford L. Montgomery, 35479504, 6 February
(not hosp)
 Tec 4 Claude W. Uhles, 34500950, 6 February
 Pfc Robert L. Cook, 34578814, 6 February
 Sgt Warren L. Cooper, 39308950, 7 February (not hosp)
 Pfc Luther V. Sadler, 34501935, 12 February (not hosp)
 Pfc Harold W. Enoch, 34501601, 14 February
 Pfc Forest A. Sweeney, 35402719, 18 February
 Tec 5 Arthur E. Welch, 36533357, 22 February (not hosp)

Missing

Pvt Sylvestre Partida, 6957541, reported as missing in action on 18 January 1945 should be corrected to read wounded in action 18 January 1945.

Killed

Sgt Damon E. Sanders, 35353826, 8 February
 Pfc Russell H. McQuiston, 35561873, 16 February
 Pfc Glovis Miller, 34501849, 18 February



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

(1) Silver Star

Pvt Paul Darretta, 32197274, GO 13, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
6 February 45
 Cpl Stephen F. Gerny, 33485408, GO 13, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
6 February 45
 Cpl Grover E. Gilbert, 20424742, GO 13, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
6 February 45
 Pvt Jewel W. Raulins, 20424821, GO 17, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
16 February 45
 Sgt Clarence W. Reed, Jr., 34525126, GO 17, Hqs 2d Inf
Div, 16 February 45
 Sgt Arne H. Suomi, 39175931, GO 17, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
16 February 45

(2) Silver Star (Missing in Action)

Pvt R. B. Taylor, 18162920, GO 17, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
16 February 45

(3) Bronze Star (Second Oak Leaf Cluster)

Sgt David D. Barto, 33418378, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
1 February 45

(4) Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster)

Capt William S. Groff, Jr., O-1821857, GO 12, Hqs
2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Cpl Morris N. Bryant, 34588508, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
1 February 45
 Sgt William DiNino, 33153680, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
1 February 45
 Sgt Homer Ousley, 35354771, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
1 February 45
 Cpl Levio D. Seamon, 35391892, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div,
1 February 45

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- (5) Bronze Star (Gallantry)
 1st Lt Peter W. Hairston, Jr., O-1824307, GO 14, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 8 February 45
 1st Lt James R. Penton, O-1822614, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Cpl Chester J. Gregorzik, 35306097, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Tec 5 Alvin S. Hargrove, 34525088, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Pvt Archie W. Holman, 20805687, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Sgt Mike N. Koulianos, 34201809, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Pfc Robert J. Kucera, 36746219, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Pfc Thomas J. Murray, 33364794, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Tec 5 Leslie F. Strack, 36129332, GO 14, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 8 February 45
- (6) Bronze Star (Gallantry) (Missing in Action)
 Pvt George A. Block, 35286919, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
 Sgt Frederick T. Kaminski, 31065068, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
- (7) Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster) (Missing in Action)
 Pvt William Vickers, 32251203, GO 12, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 1 February 45
- (8) Bronze Star (Meritorious Service)
 Major James B. Kemp, 6-397820, GO 20, Hqs 2d Inf Div, 20 February 45

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

l. Miscellaneous.

- (1) On 8 February 1945, 2nd Lt William H. Brannon, O1998453, was promoted to 1st Lt per paragraph 1, SO 339, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 8 February 1945, with date of rank 8 February 1945.
- (2) On 16 February 1945, 1st Lt Sanford A. Johnson, O1821873, was promoted to Captain per paragraph 1, SO 47, Headquarters First United States Army dated 16 February 1945, with date of rank 16 February 1945.
- (3) On 14 February 1945, 2nd Lt Thomas D. Davis, O1998372, was promoted to 1st Lt per paragraph 5, SO 45, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 14 February 1945, with date of rank 14 February 1945.

Henry S. Chapman, Jr.
 HENRY S. CHAPMAN, JR
 1st Lt., AUS
 Bn Historical Officer

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