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Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

APO 330, U.S. Army
3 February 1945

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

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



- a. Original Unit.
Completed.
- b. Changes in Organization.
This organization continued to be attached to 3rd TD Group and further attached to the 2d Infantry Division.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
 - (1) At beginning of period - 21 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 569 enlisted men.
 - (2) at end of period - 37 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 567 enlisted men.
 - (3) Net change. - Increase of 6 officers, decrease of 1 warrant officer and 2 enlisted men.
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.
 - (1) Battalion Advance CP established on 12 January 1945 at Camp Aisenborn consisting of the following personnel: Battalion Commander, S-2, S-3, Assistant S-3, Liaison Officer, S-2 Section and S-3 Section.
 - (2) On 21 January 1945 Battalion CP departed at 1115 hours from its position 2-3/4 miles E of Verviers coordinates (K725217) and travelled a distance of 14.2 miles to new position at Sourbroit, Belgium, coordinates (R362094), closing at 1220 hours.
- e. Marches.
None.
- f. Campaigns.
No change.
- g. Battles.
 - (1) Aisenborn Defensive - Wirtsfeld - Krinkel - Rockerath Offensive.
Enemy - Numerous armored vehicles were reported during the current period. The battalion encountered 4 armored vehicles, 2 of which were confirmed as being knocked out, and 2 were hit but no confirmation of destruction could be obtained. On 16 January 1945 the 2d and 3d platoons

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of Co B hit one enemy Mark V tank and knocked out one enemy half-track at coordinates S53015. On 18 January 1945 one enemy tank, type unknown, was hit by the 3d platoon of Co B and on the same date one enemy self-propelled gun was knocked out by the 3d platoon of Co B at coordinates S54980. The terrain in the vicinity of Wainies is open and rolling, but 3000 to 4000 yards south of the town it becomes heavily wooded in places with several fairly large hills.

Action - During this period the battalion furnished close in fire support and anti-mechanized protection to the 2d Infantry Division and the 99th Infantry Division. On 2 January 1945 Co A (minus the 2d platoon) was attached to the 99th Infantry Division and provided anti-tank protection from prepared positions East and Northeast of Eisenborn, Belgium at coordinates (K932074) and (K934076). The 2d platoon was in mobile reserve in position in Nidrum, Belgium, coordinates (K909059). Co A maintained these positions until relieved of attachments and missions by Co C on 19 January 1945. On 13 January Co B was attached to the 23d Combat Team, which was in turn attached to the First Infantry Division. Co B furnished close fire support and anti-tank protection to the 23d Combat Team during their attack on Wainies, Belgium, coordinates (K852022). On 16 January the 2d and 3d platoons knocked out one enemy Mark V Tank, one half-track, one machine gun, and three strongpoints by direct fire, killing and wounding approximately 68 enemy personnel. 2d and 3d platoons of Co B supported the 23d Infantry Regiment's attack on Endenvai, Belgium coordinates (K855003) and Monteneu, Belgium, coordinates (K852968). 2d platoon fired 3 rounds into a tank and 1 round into a second tank, results unknown, at coordinates (K854999). 3d platoon captured 2 prisoners of war. Co B was relieved of attachment to Combat Team 23 on 23 January. Co C relieved Co A and took over Co A's positions and missions and was attached to the 99th Infantry Division on 19 January. 2d platoon of Co A was attached to the 9th Infantry Regiment on 22 January and moved to anti-tank positions East of Don Dutgenbech, coordinates (K933019). On 25 January the remainder of Co A was attached to the 9th Infantry Regiment and moved from Nidrum, Belgium to anti-tank positions at coordinates (K926022), supporting the 9th Infantry Regiment's attack on Mill 629, coordinates (K9602). Co C (less the 2d platoon) was relieved of attachment to the 99th Infantry Division and reverted to the 2d Infantry Division Reserve in Camp d'Eisenborn on 28 January 1945. Co B (plus the 2d Recon platoon) was attached to the 23d Infantry Regiment on 31 January and sup-

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reported their attack on Krinkelt and Rockerath. 2d Bn platoon captured 1 prisoner of war on this date. During the month of January 1945 this organization fired 159 rounds of 76mm HE and AFO by direct fire. In addition 233 concentrations were fired indirect of a harrasing nature and 2063 rounds were expended.

h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.
No change.

i. Losses in Action: Officers and Men.

Wounded

Sgt Julius Politsky, 35021099, 1 January (not hosp)
Sgt Julius Politsky, 35021099, 2 January
Sgt Alex Weingerber, 37152866, 2 January
Sgt Samuel E. Mestrezat, 34535741, 11 January (not hosp)
Tec 5 Lester W. Reeves, 34578780, 11 January (not hosp)
Tec 5 Milton H. Davis, 34536439, 15 January
Tec 5 Hugh C. Hendrix, 34578272, 15 January
Sgt Rudolph J. Rosenberger, 33172344, 15 January (DOW 17 Jan)
Pvt Ernest L. Pigg, 34501483, 15 January
Pvt Gerald V. Green, 37536900, 15 January
Pvt Lavander O. Walter, 7041077, 15 January
Pfc Albert H. Funco, 38104376, 18 January (not hosp)
Pfc Derek J. Hengel, 33172268, 23 January
Pfc Leroy V. Hartley, 34535535, 23 January (not hosp)
Pfc Clarence F. Wills, 39191564, 24 January

Missing

Pvt Sylvestre Partida, 6957541, 18 January

Killed

Sgt Chester E. Davis, 35327315, 18 January

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.
None.

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

l. Miscellaneous.

- (1) On 16 January 1945, 1st Lt William G. Groff, Jr., O1821857, was promoted to Captain per paragraph 18, SO 16, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 16 January 1945, with date of rank 16 January 1945.
- (2) On 16 January 1945, 1st Sgt Jack A. Soales was appointed 2nd Lt pursuant to paragraph 7, SO 19, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 19 January 1945, with date of rank 16 January 1945.

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