

SECRET

Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

AGO 230, U.S. ARMY
3 April 1945

File

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

TO : Commanding General, V Corps, APO 305, U.S. Army.
(THEM 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 601 enlisted men.
 - (2) At end of period - 38 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 599 enlisted men.
 - (3) Net change - Increase of 1 officer and decrease of 2 enlisted men.
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.
 - (1) On 5 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1630 hrs from its position at Staruhr, Germany and travelled a distance of 38.2 miles to new position at Vlatten, Germany, coordinates (F159288), closing at 2245 hrs.
 - (2) On 6 March Battalion CP departed at 1405 hrs from its position at Hofen, Germany and travelled a distance of 22.8 miles to new position at Vlatten, Germany, coordinates (F159288), closing at 1705 hrs.
 - (3) On 7 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1100 hrs from its position at Vlatten, Germany and travelled a distance of 10.6 miles to new position at Nechernich, Germany, coordinates (F236217), closing at 1500 hrs. On 7 March Battalion CP departed at 1400 hrs from its position at Vlatten, Germany and travelled a distance of 10.6 miles to new position at Nechernich, Germany, (F236217), closing at 1500 hrs.
 - (4) On 8 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 0812 hrs from its position at Nechernich, Germany and travelled a distance of 7 miles to new position at Raustereifel, Germany, coordinates (F310176), closing at 0910 hrs.

SECRET



- On 8 March Battalion CP departed at 1635 hrs from its position at Meckelnich, Germany and travelled a distance of 11 miles to new position at Eicherscheid, Germany, coordinates (F315154), closing at 1745 hrs.
- (5) On 9 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1335 hrs from its position at Munstereifel, Germany and travelled a distance of 22 miles to new position at Bruck, Germany, coordinates (457100), closing at 1520 hrs.
- On 9 March Battalion CP departed at 1310 hrs from its position at Eicherscheid, Germany and travelled a distance of 18 miles to new position at Bruck, Germany, coordinates (457100), closing at 1430 hrs.
- (6) On 10 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1225 hrs from its position at Bruck, Germany and travelled a distance of 16 miles to new position at Honigsfeld, Germany, coordinates (F602113), closing at 1340 hrs.
- On 10 March Battalion CP departed at 1245 hrs from its position at Bruck, Germany and travelled a distance of 14.7 miles to new position at Schalkenbach, Germany, coordinates (F584105), closing at 1400 hrs.
- (7) On 21 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 2225 hrs from its position at Honigsfeld, Germany and travelled a distance of 15 miles to new position at Honningen, Germany, coordinates (F696132), closing at 0020 hrs 22 March.
- On 21 March Battalion CP departed at 2240 hrs from its position at Schalkenbach, Germany and travelled a distance of 10.8 miles to new position at Linz, Germany, coordinates (F681186), closing at 2400 hrs.
- (8) On 25 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 0820 hrs from its position at Honningen, Germany and travelled a distance of 12.8 miles to new position at Niederbieber, Germany, coordinates (F816069), closing at 1025 hrs.
- On 25 March Battalion CP departed at 1720 hrs from its position at Linz, Germany and travelled a distance of 17.8 miles to new position at Niederbieber, Germany, coordinates (F816069), closing at 1830 hrs.
- (9) On 27 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 0800 hrs from its position at Niederbieber, Germany and travelled a distance of 14.2 miles to new position at Mohr Grenzhansen, Germany, coordinates (F949043), closing at 1340 hrs.
- On 27 March Battalion CP departed at 1405 hrs from its position at Niederbieber, Germany and travelled a distance of 14.2 miles to new position at Mohr Grenzhansen, Germany, coordinates (F949043), closing at 1525 hrs.
- (10) On 29 March Battalion Forward CP departed at 1030 hrs from its position at Mohr Grenzhansen, Germany and travelled a distance of 21.1 miles to new position at Niederhadamar, Germany, coordinates (F715044), closing at 1140 hrs.

SECRET

On 29 March Battalion G departed at 1015 hrs from its position at Hoyer Greenhusen, Germany and travelled a distance of 21.1 miles to new position at Niederwiederar, Germany, coordinates (484304), closing at 1115 hrs.

(11) On 30 March Battalion G departed at 0615 hrs from its position at Niederwiederar, Germany and travelled a distance of 66.9 miles to new position at Heborn, Germany, coordinates (484377), closing at 1405 hrs.

On 30 March Battalion G departed at 0715 hrs from its position at Niederwiederar, Germany and travelled a distance of 66.9 miles to new position at Heborn, Germany, coordinates (484377), closing at 1300 hrs.

6. Air Force.
None.

7. Communications.
No change.

8. Artillery.

(1) Heborn Bridgehead Offensive.

The enemy's supporting armor consisted of an M4 assault gun of tank companies here and there in a piecemeal fashion. Main defenses of the Rhine River consisted of blown bridges, mine fields and road blocks. When these defenses were reduced, the enemy was able to offer but slight organized resistance to our drive to the Rhine River. The terrain was initially densely wooded hills with deep valleys, breaking into open brown terrain that extended to the vicinity of Hunsdorf. From Hunsdorf to Affelsberg the terrain was covered with a dense forest. From Affelsberg to the Rhine the terrain was of a rugged nature with high peaks, covered hills and deep open valleys. With the exception of three or four lone tanks, the enemy showed no supporting armor during the period 23 - 31 March. Main defenses consisted of road blocks and scattered mines. The majority of towns and villages offered little or no resistance. Defenses of Heborn consisted of a considerable number of machine gun emplacements and personnel tanks. A coordinated attack by tanks, tank destroyers, and infantry reduced these obstacles in four hours. The terrain along the east bank of the Rhine was initially rolling hills with wooded areas here and there. Several rivers were encountered as the attack progressed towards the east and northeast but were crossed without difficulty. The terrain in the Heborn - Hunsdorf - Affelsberg - Heborn area consists for the main part of high wooded hills with broad valleys, dotted with farms and numerous small villages.



SECRET



action - During this period this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-aircraft protection to the 21 Infantry Division. From 1 - 4 March Co A was in direct support of the 9th Battery Regiment and Co B in direct support of the 3rd Infantry Regiment. Companies were in anti-tank positions on the ridge overlooking Gerold and Grieden, Germany. Co C was attached to the 30th Infantry Regt and was in Division Reserve. At 1200 hours 4 March Co B was attached to the 20th Infantry Division but remained in position. On 5 March Co B minus 1st platoon was attached to the 10th Cavalry Squadron (Mech) and supported the attacks on Lutzel (P275256) and Schmalen (P229277), Germany. Co C minus 2nd platoon was attached to 20th Infantry Regiment and supported their attack on Kloster Mariwald and Gmund, Germany. First platoon of Co B and 3rd platoon of Co C were attached to the 33rd Infantry Regiment. On 6 March Co A attached to 9th Infantry Regiment supported the attacks on Jona, Thalberg, Schornau and Lengenfeld, Germany with direct fire. Second platoon of Co A destroyed 3 88 guns, 8 general purpose vehicles, 5 horse drawn vehicles, and killed an estimated 150 enemy. Third platoon of Co A fired on a tank V team and forced its surrender, and captured a three gun battery of 105 field guns, captured 30 prisoners, destroyed one machine gun and 4 general purpose vehicles. Co B caught a long column of enemy horse drawn and general purpose vehicles in a defile and destroyed entire column, killing an estimated 200 enemy and destroying 12 horse drawn and 15 general purpose vehicles. On 9 March Co B was relieved from attachment to 10th Cavalry Squadron and attached to 23rd Infantry Regiment. Third platoon of Co C reverted to company control. From 9 - 11 March operations continued in the circuit along the Ahr Valley to the Ahr River. On 11 March 3rd platoon of Co A fired on Aldorf, Germany (P6005), destroying 3 machine gun nests in fortified houses, killing 15 enemy and capturing 17 prisoners. On 12 March Co B put two platoons into direct fire positions on the west bank of the Rhine River, and used a river-barge filled with enemy troops, killing 25 and capturing 65 prisoners. A 280mm AA gun was destroyed on the east bank of the Rhine. From 13 - 23 March two platoons of Co B and 1 section of the 2nd platoon of Co A were in position on the west bank of the Rhine sites to deliver direct fire on the river and prevent enemy attempts to destroy the Hagen Bridge by floating demolition downstream. On 21 March Co C

- 4 -

SECRET



SECRET

attached to the 38th Infantry Regiment crossed to the east bank of the Rhine and delivered direct fire support in the attack on Bodenbach, Germany. First platoon of Co C destroyed a 75mm AT gun, 2 machine guns and 4 fortified houses, killing 10 enemy and capturing 6 prisoners. On 26 March Companies A and B were relieved of attachment and placed in direct support of the infantry regiments. Co C, with 2nd platoon attached, continued its attachment to the 38th Infantry Regiment and was further attached to CGA 9th Armored Division and followed with the combat command spearheads up through Langescheld, Beuera, Rechtebach, Grossenlinden, Herfeld, Homberg, Treysa, Warburg, Germany. Second platoon destroyed 7 machine guns, 3 panzerfaust emplacements, killed 20 enemy and captured 65 while acting as advance point during this period. Companies A and B carried infantry on their destroyers during this period in the pursuit. The following targets were engaged and destroyed:

Anti-tank guns	1
Mark V (Leather) Tank	1
Machine guns	13
AA guns	4
Field guns (105s)	3
River boats	5
Dugouts and fortified buildings	13
General purpose vehicles	32
Horse drawn vehicles	17
Prisoners of war	198
Estimated killed	269

One gun of Co A was tied in with 37th FA Battalion from 1 - 4 March and with the 167th FA Battalion from 18 - 21 March for illuminating missions. Sixty-four (64) rounds of illuminating shell were expended in 22 missions during these periods. From 13 - 21 March the 3rd platoon of Co B was tied in with the 15th FA Battalion for indirect fire. One hundred and twenty-three (123) missions were fired during this period and eleven hundred and fifty-three (1153) rounds were expended while in indirect fire position. All missions were of a harassing nature.

b. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.
No change.

i. Losses in Action: Officers and Men.
Wounded

- Pvt Theodorus J. Rybak, 36661119, 4 March
- Pvt Graydon J. Yeager, 36986492, 5 March
- Sgt David D. Barto, 33448378, 7 March
- Tec 5 Alin Green, 34579400, 12 March

SECRET

SECRET

Pfc James Cordova, 37703922, 13 March
 Cpl Albert L. Guiney, 34536507, 23 March
 Pfc William H. Lambert, 39563612, 23 March
 Pfc John Strazleski, 13595929, 23 March
 Tsg 5 Robert W. Beckert, 33885513, 24 March (not hosp)
 Sgt John J. Gessell, 12300927, 24 March (not hosp)
 Tsg 5 Bobby T. Graves, 34501558, 25 March (not hosp)
 Pfc Wilber C. Loadman, 34535353, 25 March (not hosp)
 Pfc Bernardo H. Carbonell, Jr., 34505873, 26 March
 Sgt Norman V. Harlow, 34535405, 26 March (not hosp)
 1st Lt Edward H. Farrington, 01824296, 31 March (not hosp)
 Pfc Charles W. Cunningham, 34502272, 31 March (not hosp)

Missing
None.

Killed
None.



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

(1) Silver Star

1st Lt William H. Brunson, 01998453, SO 23, HQ 24
Inf Div, 3 March 45

(2) Croix De Guerre Avec Palmes

Lt Col Joseph H. Nesley, 0267563, Decision #343,
A L'Ordre De L'Armee

(3) La Croix De Guerre Avec Etoile de Bronze

S/Sgt Raymond C. Taylor, 20451704, Decision #332,
A L'Ordre Du Regiment
Cpl Eric S. Hinson, 34535916, Decision #332,
A L'Ordre Du Regiment

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

l. Miscellaneous.

(1) W/Sgt William G. Lamb commissioned 2d Lt AMM per
par 9 SO #34, Headquarters First United States Army
dated 26 March 1945 with date of rank 25 March 1945.

(2) On 26 March 2d Lt Jack A. Seulen, 02005811, was
promoted to 1st Lt per par 6 SO #34, Headquarters
First United States Army, dated 26 March 1945 with
date of rank 26 March 1945.

(3) On 26 March 2d Lt Martin I. Goldann, 01824301, was
promoted to 1st Lt per par 6, SO #34, Headquarters
First United States Army, dated 26 March 1945 with
date of rank 26 March 1945.

SECRET

(b) On 27 February 1945 2d Lt Stanley G. Balstakis, 01998455, was promoted to 1st Lt per par 6, 80 #58, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 27 February 1945, with date of rank 27 February 1945.

HENRY G. GILBERT, JR
1st Lt., AUS
The Historical Officer

SECRET