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Headquarters
612th TANK DESTROYER
Battalion

APO 230, U.S. Army
2 June 1945

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

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

a. Original Unit.
Completed.

b. Changes in Organization.

This organization was relieved from attachment to VII Corps and attached to V Corps by Troop Assignment #44, Headquarters FUSA dated 30 April 1945, effective 1 May 1945. This organization was relieved from attachment to V Corps by Troop Assignment #46, Headquarters FUSA dated 6 May 1945, effective 6 May 1945 and was relieved from assignment to FUSA and assigned to Third United States Army per Troop Assignment #119, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, dated 6 May 1945, effective 6 May 1945. This organization was attached to V Corps by Troop Assignment #A-142, Headquarters Third United States Army dated 10 May 1945, effective 6 May 1945. Attachment to Second Infantry Division remained unchanged.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

- (1) At beginning of Period - 36 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 566 enlisted men.
- (2) At end of Period - 33 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 599 enlisted men.
- (3) Net change - Decrease of 3 officers and increase of 33 enlisted men.

d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit.

- (1) On 2 May Battalion Forward CP moved at 0850 hrs from position at Bad-Lausick, Germany, K433944, and travelled a distance of 209 miles to new position at Ober Murach, Germany, P370045, closing at 2235 hrs. On 2 May Battalion CP moved at 0915 hrs from position at Bad-Lausick, Germany, K433944, and travelled a distance of 205.8 miles to new position at Ndr Murach, Germany, P358048, closing at 2300 hrs.

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- (2) On 4 May Battalion Forward CP moved from position at Ober Marach, Germany, P370045, at 0900 hrs and travelled a distance of 12.5 miles to new position at Grasserdorf, Germany, P470960, closing at 1005 hrs.
On 4 May Battalion CP moved at 0900 hrs from position at Ndr Marach, Germany, P358048, and travelled a distance of 12.5 miles to new position at Grasserdorf, Germany, P470960, closing at 1005 hrs.
- (3) On 6 May Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP moved at 1000 hrs from positions at Grasserdorf, Germany, P470960, and travelled a distance of 30.8 miles to new positions at Horsozsky-Tyn, Czechoslovakia, P760158, closing at 1145 hrs.
- (4) On 7 May Battalion Forward CP and Battalion CP moved at 1340 hrs from positions at Horsozsky-Tyn, Czechoslovakia, P760158, and travelled a distance of 28.9 miles to new positions at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, P861420, closing at 1450 hrs.

e. Marches.
None.

f. Campaigns.
No change.

g. Battles.

(1) Czechoslovakian Offensive.

Enemy - Main enemy defenses consisted of minor and scattered groups of rifle and machine gun parties. No enemy armor was observed during the period. Terrain was rolling open country with an occasional patch of woods.

Action - The 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion was in active operations from 1 May to 8 May 1945. During this period this battalion furnished direct fire support and anti-tank protection for the Second Infantry Division. From 1 May to 8 May, Company "A" was attached to the 9th Infantry Regiment, Company "B" to the 23rd Infantry Regiment, and Company "C" to the 38th Infantry Regiment. Battalion moved from Leipzig to take defensive positions along the Germany-Czechoslovakia border, vicinity of WALDMUTCHEN, GERMANY. On 5 May Company "B" fired 19 rounds HE at enemy observation posts and strong points, killing an estimated 12 enemy. On this same date companies attached to their respective regiments jumped off on the attack on Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. The city was entered, liberated, and the 'cease fire' order was re-

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ceived while in Pilsen. No further offensive action has been undertaken by this battalion.

h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.
No change.

i. Losses in Action: Officers and Men.

Wounded

Pfc Donald R. McCollum, 35575520, 5 May

Missing

None

Killed

None

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

(1) Silver Star (Posthumously)

Pfc Russell O. Helmick, 33390577, GO 57, Hq 2d Inf Div.

(2) Soldier's Medal

Tec 4 Hugh F. Rafferty, 32322242, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

(3) Bronze Star (Posthumously)

Pvt Wadie E. Menem, 38453966, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

(4) Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster)

1st Lt Edward H. Farrington, 01824296, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

(5) Bronze Star (Heroic Achievement)

Sgt Joseph S. Chaves, 39839619, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

Pfc John J. Gross, 34535986, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

Pfc Garfield James, Jr., 35446389, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

Pfc Ezra C. Stroud, 35478560, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

(6) Bronze Star (Meritorious Service)

Capt Harold Rosenblatt, 01821772, GO 53, Hq 2d Inf Div.

1st Lt., Henry S. Chapman, Jr., 01822557, CO 63,

Hq 2d Inf Div.

M/Sgt Allen M. Linton, 6650576, GO 63, Hq 2d Inf Div.

S/Sgt Otis V. Short, 39847377, GO 63, Hq 2d Inf Div.

T/Sgt David W. Coursey, 20424919, GO 67, Hq 2d Inf Div.

S/Sgt Fred Whitson, 34300365, GO 67, Hq 2d Inf Div.

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



Henry S. Chapman, Jr.

HENRY S. CHAPMAN, JR

1st Lt., FA (TD)

Bn Historical Officer