

HEADQUARTERS
633d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

45
45

30 Oct 45
(Date)

SUBJECT: Original and Final History of 633d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. ✓

1. Original Unit.

a. 633d Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP).

b. 16 December 1941.

c. Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

d. Letter War Department, The Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., dated 3 December 1941, File 320.2(11-17-41)MR-MC, Subject: Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalion.

e. Personnel obtained by transfer from 122d, 123d and 124th Field Artillery Battalions, 33d Division Field Artillery.

2. No changes in organization occurred.

3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.

a. 1 January 1945 - Officers - 53, Warrant Officers - 2, Enlisted Men - 715.

b. Net increase for

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
January	0	0	7
February	05	0	25
March	0	0	3
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	11
June	4	0	16
July	1	0	0
August	0	0	25
September	50	0	0
October			

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c. Net Decrease for

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
January	6	0	24
February	1	0	93
March	9	0	24
April	0	0	0
May	1	0	19
June	2	0	1
July	0	0	0
August	1	0	0
September	65	0	150
October	9	0	201
	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>593</u>

d. 30 October 1945 - Officers - 9; Warrant Officers - 2; Enlisted Men - 289.

4. Stations - Permanent and Temporary.

a. Fort Lewis, Washington.

i. Arrived 7 November 1943, departed 10 January 1944.

b. Pilot Knob, California.

Arrived 14 January 1944, Departed 16 March 1944.

c. Camp Maxey, Texas.

Arrived 19 March 1944, departed 13 April 1944.

d. Camp Hood, Texas,.

Arrived 13 April 1944. ~~Present Station~~ departed 21 March 1945.

e. Camp Shanks, New York.

Arrived 24 March 1945, departed 31 March 45 for European Theater.

5. Marches - None

6. Campaigns.

a. Central Europe.

b. Duration: 12 days.

c. Purpose: Neutralization of German Armor in and about German Sudentland. This organization also helped with the evacuation of German Prisoners

d. Per VCOG 16th Armored Division.

7. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements - None.
8. Losses in Action - Officers and Men - None.
9. Former and Present Members who have Distinguished themselves in Action;
 - a. Engagement - Heroic achievement in connection with Military Operations against the enemy in Germany.
 - b. Names - 1st Lt Cramer L. Williams & Pfc Howard C. Ego.
 - c. Act - & General Orders No 145, 1st Inf Div. ^{W 66}
 - d. Reward - Bronze Star Medal in both cases.
10. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events - Attached hereto photograph of Lt Col Brisack presenting 1st Lt Williams, ^{Pfc Ego} the Bronze Star Medal.
11. Remarks General for the year.

20 Jan 45 - Battalion alerted for Movement Overseas, Ltr Hq TDS, Camp Hood, Texas, dated 20 Jan 45.

1 Mar 45 - Battalion received call to the Port of Embarkation.

21 Mar 45 - Train No 1 departed for Camp Shanks, New York with fourteen Officers, two Warrant Officers, and three hundred and twenty-five enlisted men at 1945 hrs CWT. Train No 2 departed for Camp Shanks, New York with eighteen Officers and two hundred and seventy-one enlisted men at 1015 hrs CWT.

24 Mar 45 - Arrived at Camp Shanks, New York, ^{at 1208 hours} traveling a distance of four hundred and eleven miles. Morale of troops excellent. *(Wrong)*

29 Mar 45 - Departed from Camp Shanks, New York to entrain for Port of Embarkation at 0800 hrs. Entrained enroute to Port at 0930 hrs arriving at 0950 hrs. Embarked USS General William M. Black at 1030 hrs.

31 Mar 45 - Sailed from New York Port for overseas destination.

1 Apr - 12 Apr 45 - At sea - no accidents occurred.

13 Apr 45 - Battalion departed from LeHavre, France at 0630 hrs. ^{by rail} Departed enroute to DuClair, France. Due to numerous delays the train did not arrive at DuClair until 1030 hrs - traveling a distance of forty-five miles. The Battalion detrained at 1035 hrs and proceeded to Camp Twenty Grand on foot, ^{a distance of} which was two and one-half miles, arriving at 1145 hrs.

27 Apr 45 - Battalion relieved from assignment to Fifteenth US Army and assigned to THIRD US Army. Received orders to proceed to Nurnburg, Germany. (AUTH: TWX Field Force Port Detachment, Eleventh port, dated 27 Mar 45).

28 Apr 45 - Battalion located at Camp Twenty Grand, France. Preparing for movement to Nurnburg, Germany, to join Third U.S. Army, per VCGG, Fifteenth U.S. Army. Companies "A", "B", and "C" awaiting arrival of train for shipment of track vehicles. Ramps were built.

29 Apr 45 - Train for track vehicles of Companies "A", "B", and "C" arrived at 0845 hrs; ~~immediate proceedings are initiated to start loading.~~ Loading started at 0900 hrs and was completed by 1200 hrs. At 1645 hrs train departed for Nurnburg from DuClair, France, with Capt John H. Morrison, Bn S-2, in command. Complete gun crews plus platoon leaders and tank recovery crews made the trip by rail.

30 Apr 45 - Head of column, consisting of wheel vehicles of the Battalion passed the IP at 0805, located, entrance of Battalion Motor Pool, Camp Twenty Grand, France. Order of March; Rcn Co, CP Group, Headquarters, "A", "B" and "C" Companies. Headquarters Company and CP Group and Reconnaissance Company full strength with the exception of men in hospital and those who had already departed in advance detail. Companies "A", "B", and "C" minus track vehicles and men detached to accompany them on the train. Medical Detachment full strength with all vehicles. Battalion ~~cleared~~ at 1900, bivouac area near Reims, France. Troops were billeted in Transit Camp, sleeping in tents. Distance traveled 160 miles. Weather cold and snowing. Morale of troops excellent.

1 May 45 - Head of column departed from bivouac area at 0800 hrs. Order of March; Rcn, CP Group, Hq, "A", "B", and "C" Companies. Head of column entered Germany at Saarbrucken at 1830 hrs. Arrived at Kaiserlautern, Germany, at 2100 hrs. Troops were billeted in old SS Troop Barracks and Headquarters.

2 May 45 - Departed from Kaiserlautern, Germany, at 1800 hrs. Order of March; Rcn, CP Group, Hq Co, "A", "B", and "C" Companies. Arrived at bivouac area in Erlangen, Germany, at 2330 hrs. Reconnaissance Company reported encountering sniper fire at 2000 hrs. No casualties were sustained. No return of fire was delivered because exact location could not be determined.

3 May 45 - Battalion moved at 1000 hrs to an area 5 miles north of Nurnburg, Germany, and was attached to the 16th Armored Division by verbal order of the Commanding General, Third United States Army. Arrived at new bivouac area at 1045 hrs.

4 May 45 - CP Group and Hq Company moved into billets at Nurnburg, Germany, located on corner of Archiv Strasse and Buche Strasse. Gun Companies and Rcn Company remained behind awaiting arrival of track vehicles. Instructions received from 16th Armored Division were that as soon as track vehicles arrived and Battalion was complete, companies would join Combat Commands "A", "B", and "R", with Company "A" ~~joined~~ ^{joined} to Command "A", Company "B" with Command "B", and Company "C" with Command "R". Personnel Section moved to rear echelon of 16th Armored Division Administration Center.

5 May 45 - Reconnaissance Company reported to 16th Armored Division at 1150 hrs to act as security for Division Administrative Center. Gun Companies still awaiting arrival of track vehicles.

6 May 45 - Track vehicles arrived from Wurzburg, where they were unloaded, at 0315. Captain Morrison submitted diary of the train trip which is as follows:

205 "On Sunday, 29 Apr 45, at 1635 hrs, part of the Battalion, consisting of ~~1946~~ enlisted men and 9 officers from "A", "B", and "C" Companies, plus 2 enlisted men from the Medical Detachment and the Battalion S-2, who was acting as Train Commander, departed by rail from DuClair, France, with Nurnburg, Germany as its destination. The train itself was made up of 21 flat cars carrying the 36 M-18's and 3 M-32's recovery vehicles. In addition, there were 11 box cars which carried ~~all of the~~ personnel and impedimenta.

"The trip was made under trying weather conditions, with snow, sleet, hail and rain prevailing throughout. Although there was no heat of any kind in the box cars, all personnel managed to maintain a certain degree of warmth by heating "C" and "K" rations on their individual gas burners.

The front line ran approx-
imately parallel to Highway 95
and 4 miles east thereof. Of that
sector patrolled by Ren Co., a total
~~front~~ distance of 10 Kilometers, Co. "A"
occupied the right half of the
line and Co. "B" occupied the
left half of the line.

45 - Battalion received mission
of establishing outposts to prevent
movement of Germans and Russians
to the west of a designated line.

Co. "C" established a "Prisoner of War
Camp" and a "Displaced Persons Camp"
at Hec Brelovice, Czechoslovakia
coordinates (983.2 - 555.3). Co. "C" also
had the mission of patrolling
roads and searching the towns
in the rear area.

Ren Co patrolled Highway 95
which ran across the center of
area and the ^{lateral} roads leading into
it. Ren Co established a left flank
outpost on Highway 95 at Stopinska
(984.0 - 559.9) and a right flank
outpost on Highway 95 at Cross
530 (989.3 - 554.9).

Headquarters Company and CP Group proceeded on to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, arriving at 1500 hours. Distance traveled 50 miles. Established billets in old Czech Police Headquarters and German SS Headquarters.

8 May 45 - Battalion still located in Pilsen, assisting 16th Armored Division in evacuation of Prisoners of War to Prisoner of War Camps.

9 May 45 - Companies "A", "B", and "C" reverted to Battalion control. Moved into billets with Headquarters Company.

10 May 45 - Battalion moved from Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, at 1100 hours, and traveled 35.2 miles to new bivouac area. Battalion CP located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west Krivice, Czechoslovakia, coordinates (974.8-560.8) map of Germany, Sheet T-7 Tischenrauth, scale 1/100,000. Companies bivouaced in areas as follows with Company CP's located at: Hq Company (974.8-560.8); Company "A" (979.8-558.5); Company "B" (977.8-559.4), 6 mile west of Schripprue, Czechoslovakia; Company "C" (981.7-557.2) at Krsov, Czechoslovakia; Ron Company (981.2-556.0), $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Krsov, Czechoslovakia.

next to cp instead
~~11 May 45 - Battalion received mission of establishing outposts to prevent movement of Germans and Russians in and out of area east of highway 95. One Company to establish Prisoner of War Camp and Displaced Persons Camp at Krelovice, Czechoslovakia. Missions were assigned to Companies as follows; and Companies moved into these positions from 1300 to 1500 hours; Company "A" established outpost line from right flank coordinate (993.559) to left flank coordinate (990.560), Company CP located at coordinate (979.8-558.5); Company "B" left flank outpost line (988.9-563.8), right flank road junction 652, coordinates (991.0-563.7), Company CP located 16 mile west of Schpopprue, Czechoslovakia, coordinates (977.8-559.4); Company "C" established Prisoner of War Camp and Displaced Persons Camp and established road blocks around Krelouice, Czechoslovakia for security of above town. Company CP located at coordinate (983.2-555.3); Ron Company established outpost line left flank coordinate (984.0-559.9) at Stopkinsy, Czechoslovakia, to right flank cross road 530 located (989.3-554.9).~~

12 May 45 - Battalion CP moved to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Cihana, Czechoslovakia, with Headquarters Company coordinates (985.9-557.5). Distance traveled 13.9 miles. Departed from Krivice, Czechoslovakia, at 1230 hours; arrived at Cihana, Czechoslovakia at 1450 hours. *X o.k.*

13 May 45 - Company "A" moved Company CP to coordinates (990.8-558.0) and extended right flank of outpost line to coordinates (995.5-564.5).

14 May 45 - Battalion relieved from attachment to the 16th Armored Division and attached to V Corps effective 6 May 45, per Troop Assignment Order No. A-142, Headquarters Third U.S. Army, APO 403, dated 10 May 45. Battalion continued duties awaiting further orders from V Corps.

15 May 45 - Battalion relieved from outpost duties. Companies called into vicinity of Battalion CP.

17 - 21 May 45 - Battalion bivouaced and performing maintenance on equipment and vehicles.

22 May 45 - Battalion received alert order for redeployment and movement to Pacific per Ltr Hq Third US Army, file AG 370.5 GNWEC, Subject: "Alert for Redeployment and Movement" dated 17 May 45.

23 May 45 - 0800; Battalion preparing for movement and redeployment. Gun Companies fired self-propelled guns, direct fire, on range. Results of firing excellent. 1245; Received information from V Corps that the Battalion was to be redeployed indirect through the United States. No information was received on date of movement.

24--29 May 45 - Battalion being processed for redeployment and movement.

31 May 45 - G-3, 16th Armored Division visited Battalion to check on Battalion's status as to preparation and training for redeployment, and information regarding reports to be submitted to higher headquarters as to status of training and of personnel.

1 Jun 45 - Battalion performing normal Camp duties. At 1400 hours personnel section reported back from 16th Armored Division to Battalion CP to prepare for IG inspection 4 Jun 45.

4 Jun 45 - 0800 hrs; Battalion being inspected by Inspector General from 16th Armored Division. Companies "A", "B", and "C" inspected. This included records of officers and enlisted men, with each officer and enlisted man being present to verify his own records. 1700 hrs; Inspector General and team remained with Battalion to continue inspection the following day.

5 Jun 45 - 0800 hrs; Inspector General continuing inspection of Hq and Rcn Companies. Inspection completed by Inspector General, who commented that records were in excellent shape, except for minor errors of which this organization had not received information due to movement overseas and to the combat zone.

8 Jun 45 - 1745 hrs; Battalion received alert for movement to Camp Lucky Strike, France. Must be ready to move on four hours notice.

13 Jun 45 - 1540 hrs; Battalion received orders to move to Camp Lucky Strike, France, 14 Jun 45. 1730 hrs; Received instructions to turn track vehicles in to 463d Ordnance Collecting Company, located at Bischofenitz, Germany. Crews to be taken by truck to Hoff, Germany, there to entrain for Camp Lucky Strike, France.

14 Jun 45 - 0800 hrs; Head of column passed IP located at Cihana, Czechoslovakia, enroute to Camp Lucky Strike, France (St Valery in Caux, France) with wheel vehicles of Battalion. Track vehicles being turned in. Total number of wheeled vehicles in column, 118. Twenty-two officers and 429 EM present, 13 officers and 200 EM going by train. Convoy designated as Convoy No 91. Wheeled convoy cleared IP at 0817 hours. Arrived at Camp Lucky bivouac area No 2, Ansbach, Germany, at 1630 hours. Distance traveled, 150 Miles. Weather fair.

15 Jun 45 - Head of column passed IP located entrance to bivouac area at 0800 hours. Column cleared IP at 0817 hours. Arrived At Camp No. 15, Kaiserslautern, Germany, at 1800 hours. Distance traveled 184 miles. Weather fair.

16 Jun 45 - 0800 hrs; Head of column passed IP located 500 yards East of bivouac area. Column cleared IP at 0817 hours. Arrived at bivouac area No 2, Soissons, France, at 2030 hours. Distance traveled 252 miles. Weather fair.

17 Jun 45 - 0800 hrs: Head of column passed IP located at entrance to bivouac area. Column cleared IP at 0817 hours. Arrived at destination, Camp Lucky Strike, France, at 1830 hours. Distance traveled 160 miles. Total distance traveled from Cihana, Czechoslovakia, to Camp Lucky Strike, France, 745 miles. No unusual events occurred. All vehicles and men arrived at destination. Location of Battalion in Camp Lucky Strike; Block "B". Battalion immediately started ^{Preparation} for movement to the United States.

18 Jun 45 - 0700. Companies commenced turning in their equipment to S-4 for turning in to Supply agencies located in vicinity of Camp Lucky Strike,

26 Jun 45 - Major Herschel C. O'Brien, Battalion Executive Officer; 1st Lt Eugene Roehling, Adjutant; 1st Lt John B. Patton, Asst S-3; and T Sgt Merrill V. Griffin; S Sgt Louis P Russakoff; Tec 4 Clarence E. Milroy, Headquarters Company; Tec 4 Willis S. Curry, Ron Company; Tec 4 John M. Lonavan, Company "C"; Tec 5 James D. Wiggins, Company "B"; Cpl Dominick Scassera, Company "A", departed as advance party for Battalion enroute to United States.

28 Jun 45 - Battalion completed packing equipment for movement to United States.

30 Jun 45 - Battalion troop physical examination required prior to embarkation, ~~which~~ completed processing.

1 Jul 45 - 0600 hrs; Battalion loaded on trucks for movement to LeHarve, France to embark for United States. Departed at 0610 hours. Arrived at Le Harve, France, at 0845 hours. Embarked on USS Sea Pike at 1000 hours. Sailed from LeHarve, France, at 1630 hours.

10 Jul 45 - Debarked at New York Harbor at 1115 hours and went under control of New York Port Of Embarkation. At 1200 hours, loaded Ferry and crossed to Jersey City, New Jersey enroute to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Arrived at Jersey City, at 1230 hours. Loaded on train and departed at 1255 hours. Arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, at 1335 hours. Detrained and marched on foot to Theater No. 1 for orientation lecture. At 1430 departed from Theater No. 1 and marched to Battalion area. Arrived at Battalion area at 1445 hours. Men were assigned quarters and began processing for movement to various Reception Centers, there to be given 30 days temporary duty for rehabilitation and recovery. Records of Battalion to be shipped to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for storage. First group of men departed at 0845 hours, 11 Jul 45. Battalion CP closed until Battalion arrived at Fort Bragg, N.C. Assembly station for Battalion.

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1 13 Aug 45 - 1800 hrs; Battalion CP reopened by advance detail, Major O'Brien commanding. Training for redeployment to Pacific Theater.

1 Oct 45 - Furloughs for Enlisted Men per Section II, D-6, Weekly Information Bulletin No. 36, Hq Second Army, and Memorandum No 127, 27th Hq & Hq Det, Sp Trps, Second Army, Fort Bragg, N.C.

22 Oct 45 - Released from assigned to Second Army and assigned to First Army per Ltr, Hq ACF, 322(First A)(14 Oct 45) GNGCT-82, Subject: "Assignment of Units to First Army, dated 14 Oct 45).

23 Oct 45 - Received notification of inactivation per General Order No 63, 27th Hq & Hq Det, Sp Trps, Second Army, Ft Bragg, N.C.

30 Oct 45 - Inactivated

FLOYD R. BRISACK
Lt Col, FA
Commanding.