

## COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 636 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Departed Oran Sept. 3 1943. Arrived Bizerte Sept. 6. During air attack in Bizerte Harbor, Sgt. Henry Royuk, and Charles W. Trumbo of A Company and a Sgt from Headquarters Company were hit by shell fragments and were evacuated to hospitals on shore.

Some elements of the Battalion landed on the beach of Salerno on D Day, Sept. 9. The rest of the Battalion landed on the 10-12th. The 636th was commended for outstanding performance of duty in action on 13 and 14 September 1943. The Battalion was detached from the 36th Div. and assigned to guard 5th Army Headquarters.

On Sept. 30 the Battalion moved to Guardia Lombardi, then moved to Ponte on Oct. 14.

The Battalion was assigned to VI Corps at Pietramelara from Nov. 1 to Nov. 14. During this time the Battalion protected the Corps left flank and engaged in reconnaissance.

On Nov. 14 the Battalion was assigned to II Corps, and attached to the 36th Div. The 636th moved to Mignano and acted as artillery and engaged in indirect fire missions. On the 3 of Dec the Battalion supported the infantry with direct fire in an attack launched at Mt. Maggiore and Mt. Lungo. Then on Dec. 16 again supported an attack on Mt. Lungo by the 142 Infantry. During the month of Dec. the Battalion engaged in reconnaissance missions.

Jan. 15 to Jan. 31 provided harassing fire across the Rapido River. Reconnoitered highway toward Cassino on Feb. 2. On Feb. 6, moved to Northwest of Cervaro, opposite Cassino and Monastery Hill. Fired on Cassino and Liri Valley during this time.

Battalion detached from the 36th Division Feb 15 and moved to Mignano where it remained on alert status the rest of Feb.

Moved back to Cervaro on March 15. Maintained traffic control

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Fired on Cassino with good effect on March 22. Reverted to 36 Inf. Div. and moved back to Piccilli on March 25.

Attached to 6th Field Artillery Group on May 2nd and engaged in roving fire missions on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea and in the Liri Valley, until May 17 when it reverted back to the 36th Div.

Moved to the staging area near Naples on May 18. Arrived Anzio May 19 and 20. The 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion minus Co. B supported 36 Di. drive to North of Cisterna. The Bn. then Patrolled and supported infantry in the vicinity of Velletri until the 26th of May. The Bn. then took anti-tan. positions along the Velletri-Cory road until May 31. Co. B with 3rd Div. held direct fire positions in the Vicinity of Ardena.

The Bn. minus B Co. helped secure Velletri and then moved to the outskirts of Rome on June 4. The 36th div. and the 636th minus B Co. And the 1st Armored Div. with B Co. of the 636th entered Rome simultaneously on June 4.

Battalion advanced up highway after the retreating German Army supporting the 36th Div. infantry. This 29 day drive covered 240 miles and netted over 5000 enemy prisoners. Some elements of the Battalion supported the assault in the vicinity of Massa Martima.

On June 28 the Battalion moved to the Rome area and did maintenance and prepared for the invasion of Southern France. The Battalion returned to the staging area near Salerno. Moved out of Salerno Harbor on August 12.

Supported the 36th Div. assault landing August 15 at St. Raphael, France. Part of the Battalion were assigned to Task Force Butler and advanced through Draguignan. The rest of the Battalion supported the infantry attack on Callain. The 636th Reconnoitered and spear-headed the movement into Grenoble on August 22.

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Reconnoitered the area north and south of Drome River from Crest to the Rhone River on August 25. Then continued to reconnoiter to the front and flanks of the 36th Division during its advance northward.

Reached the Moselle River on the 21 September. The 636th then set up road blocks and defensive positions in the vicinity of Remiremont.

The Battalion relieved elements of the 645 T.D. Bn. in the vicinity of Rambervillers on October 7. The Battalion advanced through the Vosges Mountains during the month of November reaching the Meurthe River on November 21.

Elements of the Battalion were attached to various Regimental Combat Teams and furnished direct and indirect fire in support of the advance eastward reaching the vicinity of Celestat and Guemar on December 14.

Most of the Battalion moved to Strasbourg on December 20 and patrolled the town.

The 636th was ordered to undergo rehabilitation and refitting on December 28. But on January 2 the TDs were on the line southwest of Bitcher after a fast move over icy roads. To help stop the enemy's Ardennes Offensive. A secondary defence line established January 10. The 636th held defensive positions in the vicinity of Bischwiller and maintained anti-tank defence the rest of January.

Elements of the 636th supported Infantry advance across the Moder River on February 2. Other Companies supported infantry attacks during Febr. The Battalion was on the line with elements of the 36th Div. on March 1. Supported drive launched March 15, across the Moder River through the Haguenau Forest to Burburg. The 636th advanced to the Siegfried Line March 19. With the infantry fought through to Rhine on the 23 March.

Attached to the XVI Corps and then to the 14th Armored Div. March 24.

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The 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion fought with the 14th Armored Div. as it advanced across the Main river toward Hurnberg until April 25.

The 636th was attached to XXI Corps and then attached to the 36th Div. on April 25. Engaged in clearing enemy from Div. right flank and rear. Received cease fire order May 5. Battalion remained in place from the 5th to the 7th of May. engaged in military Government. Battalion minus Company C (in Bad Tols ) assembled in the Inn River Valley May 8. Continued Military Government duties.