

WE POINT WITH PRIDE TO: ABLES "ANZIO"



German Royal Tiger
Rams Blue Rocket

The task force had been moving swiftly all day long. Night had fallen and Blue Rocket could be seen weaving its way along the road to Kassel. A minor mechanical failure had delayed the destroyer three hours and they were trying to reach the main body.

A murky overcast had shut out all light slowing the TD down considerably. Without warning a German tank moved out from under cover of the woods and rammed Blue Rocket broadside. The shock of the blow forced the destroyer off the road into a ditch. The stunned crew sat there momentarily waiting for the finishing round... but for some reason the German tank never followed up its attack. Taking advantage of the blackness, the men found an advantageous position in which they were able to observe the movements of the German vehicles. All that night they watched the troops moving and wondered whether the ramming of their vehicle was accidental or premeditated.

At dawn they skirted the woods and headed back for the safety of their own lines.

Pictured right: Sgt Lyle G Biggers, Glidden, Wis., Sgt Charles L. Beveridge, Bronze Star winner of Helena, Mont., Cpl Andrew H. Anderson holder of the Silver Star and Purple Heart, of Somerville, Mass., Cpl Rudolph F. Gallego, Purple Heart, Tucson, Arizona, T/5 Martin Raffelli Silver Star winner of South Range, Michigan.

Maintenance Section of 603rd Commended by General Grow

TO: Commanding Officer, Maintenance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 603rd Tank Destroyer Bn.

1. During the period 27 July 1944 to 10 March 1945, you and the enlisted members of your platoon have rendered invaluable service toward the successful completion of the operation of this Division and particularly your battalion.

2. In spite of a critical shortage of spare parts for the M-18 Tank Destroyer, you have displayed unusual initiative and professional ability in maintaining the vehicles of your battalion for operation at all times with an absolute minimum of mechanical failures.

3. I commend you and your men for your untiring devotion to duty and for excellent service.

Is/ R. W. Grow
J/ R. W. Grow
Major General, USA,
Commanding

Pictured right: Sgt Cleo B. Wheeler, holder of the Silver Star and Bronze Star of Ceres, Calif., Cpl Jose Heredia, Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Nogales, Arizona, T/4 Malcolm Phillips, Bronze Star winner of Gardener, Me., T/5 Phillip Cooke, Bronze Star, Dry Ridge, Ky., Pfc Anton G. Kutac, Bronze Star, Louise, Texas.

Anzio Wins Duel With Two Mark V's

A blanket of snow covered the ground making the tracks of Anzio appear as crevices on the terrain. Suddenly the unmistakable crack of an anti-tank gun rang through the stillness of the afternoon. Enemy tank, left front, range four hundred" were all the words the gunner heard. The 76 swung swifly, silently into position and fired. The muzzle flash concealed the backward movement of the TD but from the right came a ball of fire followed by another sharp report. Picking up speed, the TD sunk into defilade behind a crest, three more rounds served as a warning to the crew to remain under cover. But the white fields of Bastogne offered no protection, so Sgt. Knippelmeyer decided to attempt a run for cover to the woods 400 yds away. Reversing his destroyer and trailing his gun over the back end, he gave orders to move out with full steam. Over the crest of the hill past the now burning Panther, went the TD doggedly followed by a fireball every ten seconds. Reaching the comparative safety of the woods, the driver kept going until he felt completely concealed by the surrounding young pines. Anzio had come through again without a scratch and wiped another Panther off the scoreboard.

Pictured Left: Sgt Walter Knippelmeyer, Holder of Silver Star and Purple Heart of Humboldt, Neb., Cpl Clarence White, Monmouth, Ill., T/4 Edward J. Komanski, Chicago, Ill., Pvt Eugene Vreeland, Mattewan, N. J., Pfc David Morrison, Darlington, S. C.

BAKERS "BLUE ROCKET"



Connie Wins Prize at Shooting Gallery

"It will be just like shooting ducks", said the Lt. to the crew of Connie, "Move up to the crest of the hill and there they are". The motor churned the snow into a miniature whirlwind and the TD started away slowly. "Oh yes, before I forget", hollered the Lt., "These ducks shoot back". His voice died away as the TD picked up speed headed toward the crest of hill, behind which waited seven or eight German tanks. Dismounting about 75 yards from the crest Sgt Wheeler made his way to a forward position to take stock of what was in store for him and his crew. Locating his targets he made his way back and after a few minutes conference with the gunner and driver the TD started to move again. A sudden halt and the first round of 76 was on the way...load...fire...load...fire...each movement of the crew was cut and dried...then the backward motion and the safety of defilade. 4 German tanks that would never again be used in the Ardennes... were burning against the sky...

"The TD moved back to the assembly position. "Nothing to it, was there Sgt", queried the Lt. "Easiest thing we ever did sir", came the answer as the TD started off for the rear. "Where are you going now Wheeler?" "Back to Ordnance for a new idler sprocket, sir, those ducks were too damn accurate!"

The Outstanding Record of the 603rd

Presented on these four pages are finotypes of 14 M-18 "Hellcat" Tank Destroyers that have weathered 9 months of continuous combat in the elite company of America's finest Armored Division, the "Super Sixth". Thru all the hazards of five major campaigns have come these great fighting teams---five first class fighting men mounted in the most deadly craft that has ever roamed the bloody battle fields of Europe.

Beginning 12 months ago, the 603rd TD Bn. has traveled thru England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and deep into the unclean vitals of Nazi Germany as an integral part of the Sixth Armored Division and Lt. General Patton's Third Army, spearheads.

Thru Normandy, Brittany, Central France, Alsace, Lorraine, Bastogne, the Siegfried Line, the Rhineland, Hesse and Thuringen, to the plains of Central Germany; over fields, marshes, streams and mountains; thru rain, sunshine, snow and bitter cold have fought these 70 men and 14 "Hellcats" against the Panzers, SS, Luftwaffe, Volkssturm and Hitler-Jugend. In 9 months and 4500 combat miles, 115 enemy tanks and assault guns, two airplanes, numerous unarmored vehicles, anti-tank guns, a flakboat, a freight train and countless numbers of foot soldiers have fallen before the guns of these vehicles. In this period the enemy has been able to destroy only 8 "Hellcats" of this Battalion.

We are proud of our "Hellcats" but we are prouder still of the men who have fought them; the drivers, gunners, loaders, gun Sergeant, mechanics; proud of the men who went into every type of combat with no protection except their own confidence, and faith in their vehicles; proud of the men who labored day and night under all conditions to maintain and supply these stout-hearted crews and machines. We are proud of the fighting spirit which has made the "Black Panther" of the Tank Destroyers one of the most respected insignias of both, the American and German Armies.

In Camp Hood, Texas training days, the 603rd set an enviable record and the toll we have exacted from the enemy attests to the combat worthiness of this Battalion.

On these pages are portrayed the 14 reasons why we think the 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion has set one of the outstanding combat records in the American Army.

CLARENCE D. MCCURRY
Lt. Col. Commanding

CHARLIES "CONNIE"



M-8 Destroys Assault Gun With 37 mm "Cannon"

Travelling through Germany searching for the enemy was the mission of the First Platoon of Reconnaissance Company on 2nd April 1945.

The platoon, under the guiding hand of 2nd Lt. Walter Fick of Vargas, Minn., was approaching the town of Eltmannsee, Germany. The roads had been quiet that morning and all were awaiting the opening burst that usually informed the patrol of the enemy's whereabouts.

Sticking to the back roads and cow trails had proved the best way to travel for the enemy was always prepared to defend the major highways... Turning a corner of one of these dirt roads Pfc Clarence Smith, the gunner, spotted a German assault gun in position to fire on anything coming down the Auto bahn. Calling to the driver to halt he exchanged the high explosive shell in the chamber with one of armor piercing ability. A single well placed shot went through the engine compartment of the assault gun. Three more rounds insured the success of the fire that was beginning to envelope the German tank.

This platoon, adhering to the doctrine of speed, mobility and surprise captured a bridge across the Werra river the following day. A minor mission which developed into a valuable prize as the entire Sixth Armored used this bridge to cross.

While accomplishing this mission the first platoon found themselves deeper into Germany than any of the Allied Forces on the Western Front.

Black Death Outposts Uncaptured Town

The Battle for Brittany proved to have the longest, lightly held supply lines of the French Campaign.

To Black Death fell the task of guarding 30 gas, oil and ammunition vehicles over these lonely roads. Leaving the Division Motor Pool each morning they were informed of the approximate intended location to deliver their load. Circumstances very often directed the Combat Command to pursue a different course of action.

On the 6th of August the intended destination was Mur in Brittany... which the Combat Command never reached. Pulling into Mur as dusk settled Black Death was received with joy by the people of Mur, but the truck drivers and crew weren't having any... Had the division gone through? Where was Trains Headquarters? Where were the Germans...? The questions did not linger in their minds. A Frenchman came dashing wildly up to tell them the Americans were driving a force of two hundred enemy soldiers into Brest, which would have been fine except that Mur was on the route of escape...

Quickly the truckers spread the vehicles around town while Black Death moved down to the last building as a temporary roadblock. 8, 9, 10 o'clock... still no sign of the enemy... everyone, alert, wide awake... all through the night they kept vigilance... no one resting. At the crack of dawn they heard the first vehicles... Guns trained, nerves taut, everyone was prepared... The lead vehicle turned the bend... suddenly the command... Don't fire its a Sherman... The Combat Command had arrived... But where were the Germans?

They had come toward Mur but somehow they decided not to fight and bypassed the town... Or had they? Whatever had happened during the night will remain an unsolved mystery but records show that Mur in Brittany was taken by a TD and 30 gas trucks.

CHEYENNE



Pictured above: Sgt Onel E Deal, Silver Star, Rocky Comfort, Mo., Cpl Leo B. Edmondson holder of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart of Cassville, Mo., Cpl Joe K. Shoopman, Bronze Star, Thermopolis, Wyo., Pfc Frank Senkulies, Silver Star and Purple Heart, Corning, N. Y., Pfc Ernest Neuhardt, Bronze Star, Forsyth, Montana.

Two Man Crew Operates Successfully at Bastogne

The routine road block north of Bastogne had been quiet for some time. The crew of Amen were patiently waiting for our attack to begin. An exploding artillery shell hit the building next to the TD wounding the driver, assistant driver and loader seriously enough for all three to be evacuated.

Jumping off at 0700 the next morning for an assault on the town of Margaret, the task force was not weakened in vehicular strength. Somewhere along the line of armored might was a TD called Amen operated by two soldiers.

The town fell quickly for the enemy had decided to entrench themselves on the high ground overlooking the shattered buildings.

The combat team was subsequently forced to hold the town for two days against a series of concerted attacks by enemy infantry! The two man crew of Amen took their assigned positions and during the long cold night they posted guard, one hour on and one hour off. Early on the morning of the next day Amen was hit again-the second time in 2 days, tearing off the rear idler. The two valiant occupants were forced to abandon the stricken destroyer and seek cover.

Late that evening a recovery vehicle moved up to the front lines and towed Amen off for a much needed renovating.

BLACK DEATH



Pictured Above: Sgt George McCann, Silver Star winner, Olympia, Wash., Cpl Frank Alderman, Silver Star, Crockett, Texas, T/5 Leonard Goldman, Albert Lea, Minn., Pfc Anthony Klotke, Chicago, Ill., Pfc Keith Harris, Deshler, Minn.

Damon & Pythias Team Roll Up the Score

Teamwork---the essence of perfection. That which makes a fighting army victorious is ably demonstrated by the records of Cheyenne and Connie... 4435 miles... 23 days at Bastogne... 9 tanks apiece... inseparable through nine months of combat... raining death and destruction in double doses.

The night of January 1st... Bastogne... cold, ice, snow, mortars, artillery, everything present including the Luftwaffe. Everything to make the human body miserable was there the night before the attack. Morning found the sky filled with an arc of travelling shells, a snowstorm in the offing, to say nothing of an apparent tenacious enemy.

The crew of Cheyenne moved out, alert, covering the right flank of the Task Force. When first spotted, the enemy tanks were moving over the hill... Cheyenne halted... fired and kept firing... while her sister destroyer, Connie, opened up on the other side of the ridge. Together they accounted for eight tanks that dreary morning.

In Germany, well equipped for anti-aircraft defense Cheyenne and Connie ran into 16-150 mm ack-ack guns. Lowering the muzzle of this gun makes it the most effective anti-tank weapon ever developed. All morning the two destroyers searched for firing positions... finding them they proceeded for their hit and run mission. First Connie then Cheyenne, taking turns at an individual target... Sixteen tanks destroyed... A tribute to the teamwork of two TD's as inseparable as Damon and Pythias.

AMEN



Pictured above: Sgt Amos Munsterman, Silver Star and Purple Heart, Stover, Mo., Cpl Harvey George of De Kalb Mo., T/5 Herman Buckler, Bronze Star winner of Altoona, Penn., Pfc Lloyd Langley, Shamrock, Texas, Pfc Dalton Henry, Gustline, Texas.

Reconnaissance Saves Lives

Perhaps not as potent as the Tank Destroyer or the Medium Tank but recalling the old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" will give you a clue as to why proper Reconnaissance is a vital part of any military operation.

To proceed down a highway at the head of an Armored Division in the infallible "jeep" is in itself an epic of courage. But that is our job and we are here to prove that we have done our



Pictured above: S/Sgt Nick O. Civarra, Bronze Star, Seattle, Wash., Pfc Clarence M. Smith, Silver Star and Purple Heart winner of Idaho Falls, Idaho, T/5 Nicholas Schebell, North Tona wanda, N. Y., T/5 Leslie E. Pleasant, Philomath, Oregon.

job well, for has it not been proven that one wrong turn, one careless word or even a fired shot means the difference between... life... or... death?

Committed to action at Avaranches on the 2nd of August, Reconnaissance Company of the 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion has accomplished their thankless job successfully. Spearheading Combat Command "A" through the 150 miles of the Brittany Peninsula the Recon patrols, contacted, fought, dodged or avoided the enemy as the situation permitted.

Patrols and outposts, contact missions required all available strength during the battle for France. Outposts at L'Orient, road patrols between Vannes, Angers, Tours and Orleans were necessary to keep the vital supply routes open...

Contact with the enemy at Gremecy Forrest, fighting at Lehr, Arnacourt, Moirvon, and Jeandelineourt. No need for recon, the enemy was there... everywhere!

Outposts at Bastogne! Dismounted action through the Siegfried Line... a german... gun... or soldier... every ten feet.

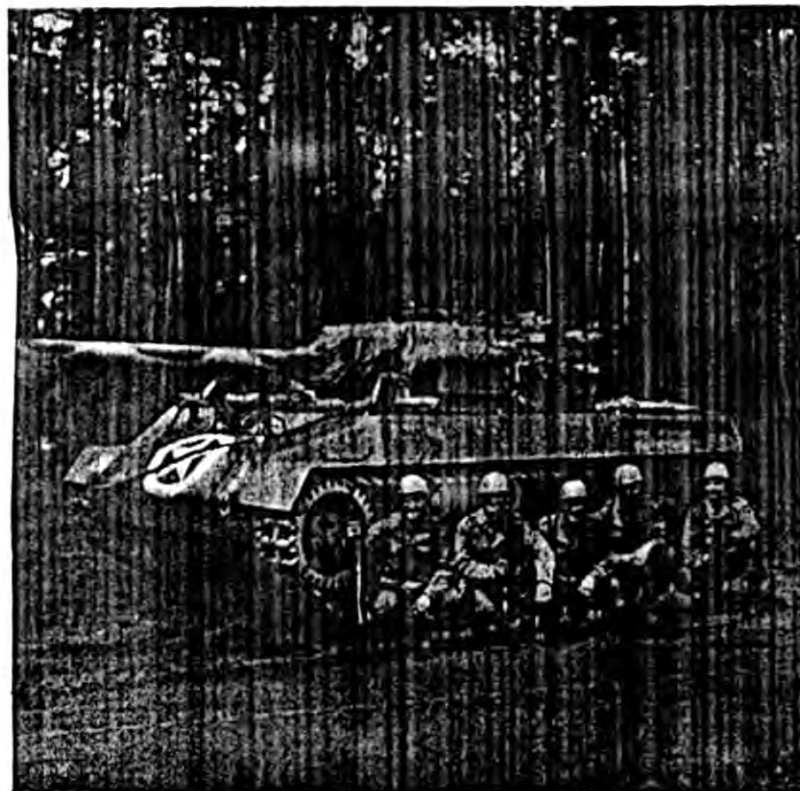
The last round: Over the Rhine three platoons each at the head of a Task Force... each seeking some route to knife into the heart of the Inner Fortress... then one day they found it. Across Germany to the Fulda River... nothing more to do but wait for the Russians to fulfill their part of the bargain.

But with all the deception here is a portion of the record, of enemy equipment destroyed or captured between the 29th of March to April 4th. 45 unarmored vehicles, 9 personnel carriers, 4 AAA guns, 1 locomotive, 7 trucks, 5 self-propelled guns, 75 dead and 800 captured enemy soldiers.

Lightly armored, fast travelling Reconnaissance Company, meeting death at every turn of the road, with more heart than fire power!

A difficult job---well done!

ALICE



Pictured above: Sgt Irving Warskowsky, Chicago, Ill., Cpl Frank Tomkowski, Bronze Star, Cleveland, Ohio, T/5 George Scharolan, Bettendorf, Iowa, Pfc Pete Burrola, Mercedes, Calif., Pfc Mike Kuljel, Joliet, Ill.

Iowa Schoolteacher Survives Hit by Bazooka

In Davenport, Iowa, Alice is the schoolteaching sister to T/5 George Scharolan. At Fossieux, France Alice was the primary target of a German Panzer Grenadier Company. While engaged in a holding action at a crossroad south of Nancy, the crew of Alice was taking time out for the proverbial cup of coffee. The gunner, on guard at the time observed the tell tale green of German uniforms moving thru the woods. Simultaneously an explosive bazooka shell tore thru the assistant drivers compartment coming to a stop in the sub-floor of the destroyer. Springing into action, the entire crew deployed as infantry to fight infantry. The gunner, manning the 50 cal. sprayed lead thru the woods while the driver attempted to start the crippled vehicle. Something had penetrated the transmission, making Alice immobile. Heavy small arms fire and continually increasing mortar fire forced the crew to withdraw and seek cover.

The battle continued all day long and at night Alice reposed in no-mans land. Morning found our task force moving forward and the TD appeared to be just as the crew left it, or so it seemed on the surface. But during the night the industrious enemy had booby-trapped the destroyer very effectively. Engineers cleared the destroyer of demolitions and Alice was treated to a remodeling and a new coat of paint.

Back in Davenport, Iowa, there is a schoolteacher who is very proud of her namesake! She has every right to be!

Versatile Destroyer Attacks Freight Train

Travelling thru Germany at the rate of 40 miles a day gave the Germans little chance to organize a stable line of resistance. Consequently there were few tanks for Ace to destroy. Having been taught tactics at Camp Hood, Texas, it was apparent that a famine would persist if the war continued at its present speed.

Near Mulhausen, Germany, the crew of Ace were discussing the prevailing situation one day when a German 30 car freight train started out of a synthetic gas plant. An ordinary train in every respect except for two flatcars on which were mounted four 30mm flak guns. Small but deadly enough to cut a TD in half. Deciding that a German train had no business running, they opened fire, hitting the locomotive with the first round. The succeeding rounds produced the following effects: A Fourth of July display of fireworks, German soldiers leaving thru every door and window and finally the train itself coming to a complete stop.

Investigation proved that in addition to the soldiers, the train contained thousands of gallons of gasoline, a tank car full of Robot-Bomb fluid and a few cases of Cognac, which, needless to say were immediately confiscated.

Although not conforming with TD methods who can deny that the Luftwaffe was deprived of its precious gasoline that day.

ACE



Pictured above: Sgt John J. Colmano, winner of the Silver Star with Oak and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Peru, Ill. Cpl John J. Star, Louisville, Ky., T/5 Hardin J. Schmid, Purple Heart, Ill., Pvt Chester L. Manzanita, Ore., Pfc Eugene Mangin, Springfield, Mass.

Attu Destroys Mk VI in Church

"We'll always remember the day we took Attu to Church" said Sgt. Walter Gould of Flint, Michigan. "It happened at Hellimer, France last November. We were moving down the road in column when all hell broke loose. Artillery, mortars, small arms, sounded like the whole German Army was waiting for us. We didn't mind that too much, but when the antitank guns turned loose I knew it was time to high tail it for cover. That's when we went to Church! I pulled the TD into the churchyard and parked her in between the cemetery and the building and we all felt that this was an appropriate place to expire. About this time the antitank sounded as if it were right around the building --- and strangely enough --- it wasn't! Only it wasn't a gun, it was the biggest tank I had ever seen up to that time. We had pulled in behind the cemetery wall and so far the Krauts hadn't seen us as yet. We couldn't move the TD anymore for fear they'd hear us and I wouldn't want to tangle with a Mk VI head on! We could see the infantry, now moving up slowly and knew it would only be a question of time before the Krauts left. Well, we sweated it out for ten minutes or so and finally the old Tiger started to move. I waited until it got about 200 yds. and pulled the TD out around the cemetery wall. There she was going away from us at 15 per. I gave Moore the sensing and wham! an APC went right thru the back and sent up a beautiful flame. The doughs cut down the crew as they jumped out and I believe she's still there to-day. I don't believe any of us will ever forget the day Attu went to Church."

ATTU



Pictured above: Sgt Walter Gould, Bronze Star, Cpl Robert Moore, Purple Heart, Rochester, Indiana, T/4 Frank Zaccanelli, Bronze Star, Syracuse, N. Y., Pfc Richard Parker, Purple Heart, Los Angeles, Calif., Pvt Percy Johnson, Callaway, Va.

Reconnaissance Platoon Dismounts for Action

Somewhere in the vicinity of Huelgoat, France, the Germans were firing from a very effective artillery battery. The 2nd Reconnaissance platoon was ordered to comb the area and locate the troublesome guns.

Starting off in the direction of the enemy lines the two armored cars and four jeeps took to the back trails between the hedgerows of Normandy.

With nothing more to go by but the sound of the firing pieces they made their way closer to the offensive position until caution made it impossible to stay in the vehicles. Spreading the cars in a defensive perimeter leaving one man on each mounted weapon the rest of the platoon moved off on foot.

T/5 Robert L. Dodds and T/5 Robert Metz, travelling together, were the first to spot an enemy position. 7 artillery pieces, two ammunition trucks and approximately a company of infantry were too much for the two men to handle alone. Making their way back to the assembly position they reported what was there and waited for the remainder of the platoon to return.

A short conference decided the course of action they were going to take. Move the vehicles into a close support position while the men made a dismounted attack.

The two 37mm guns were placed in firing positions about 600 yards from the target while the 24 men moved closer to the enemy. Then upon prearranged signal the attack began.

When the smoke had cleared away, 5 of the 7 artillery pieces were destroyed both ammunition trucks were burning and two thirds of the enemy force were out of action. Casualties to the Recon platoon: None.

Flak Boat Sunk 3000 Yards Offshore

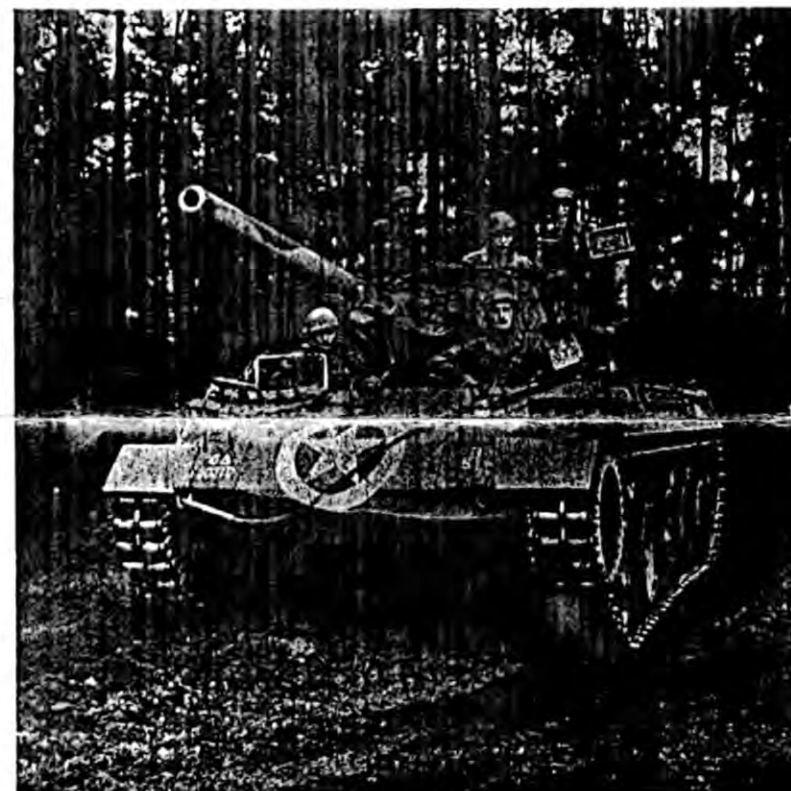
Concarneau is a sleepy little fishing village on the coast of the Brittany Peninsula. Quaint, picturesque Breton fishermen earn their livelihood fishing for lobsters. When the American forces overran Brittany, those of the enemy who could, escaped by way of the sea. The others remained at their post to defend the garrison.

On August 28th, Bataan, as part of a task force was sent to Concarneau in an attempt to take the port without a struggle. The preliminary meetings between the American and German commanding officers were to no avail. They were determined to fight. And so the battle began... with the American forces standing off to one side of the town. tearing down the defenses... one by one. All German guns were quickly located with the aid of the FBI.

Bataan had taken up a position near the shore line and every few minutes came the sound of a ricocheting round going over. Strangely enough the crew determined that it came from the sea. Scanning the horizon they saw no island, no submarine, no naval vessel, but there was something out there. Through the glasses it looked like a rowboat with a 37 mm gun but it was much larger to carry the estimated five thousand yards.

Turning the 76 on the target and with the use of a quadrant they were able to zero in on the boat with six rounds. A direct hit, then another and another brought the first signs of smoke on the horizon. The firing ceased from that source as did the short battle in town. By the words of the captured garrison commander... "Any weapon that can sink a boat 3 miles offshore is too much for us" —

BATAAN



Pictured above: Sgt Clifford Pratt, Bronze Star winner of Kettly Falls Wash., Cpl Dick Meade, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Mortar Wis., T/5 Dominic Junczewski, Bronze Star, Silver Lake, Minn., T/5 Allyn Burr, Modesto, Calif., Pvt Edwin Slutz, Portland, Oregon.

BLOCKBUSTER



Pictured above: S/Sgt Paul L. Ritchie, Bronze Star, Steele, N. D., Sgt Francis Johannek, Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Redwood Falls, Minn., Sgt William Gates, holder of the Silver Star and Purple Heart, Canton, Ohio, T/4 Lorenz S. Wolters, Bronze Star, Gaylord, Minn., Cpl William Enyard, Silver Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Knifely, Ky.

Total Wreck Revived to Prove Ghost Theory

The river crossing at Han-Sur-Nied had developed into a Major Operation. Instead of light resistance, the Germans had pulled up everything they owned on the other side of the river and proceeded to throw it over.

Blockbuster drew the mission of protecting, by direct fire, the attempts of the engineers to put in a bridge. The low terrain afforded the Germans a perfect target and consequently a round of 150 mm exploded against the side of the TD. A sheet of flame shot into the air as the driver frantically attempted to back off. After a few minutes of fire fighting the crew extinguished the blaze, but to no avail. Blockbuster was headed back for an ordnance repair job.

Blockbuster received an entire rewiring job and coupled with a new 50 caliber machine gun hit the line again at Batlogne. The Rehabilitated TD proved its worth in the Ardennes when it encountered and destroyed two German assault guns. With a new crew, new engine, and new insides it traveled the length of Germany without mishap.

Today she stands proud and defiant... no longer a ghost... but a combat vehicle with six German tanks destroyed and 4150 combat miles under her belt.

Blockbuster — The return of the Ghost!

Trotters Run Second in Cross Country Run

The French prisoner of war had some important information for the 3rd Reconnaissance Platoon as they entered a little German town. 36 hours ago a horse drawn column of infantry and artillery had gone through the town followed closely by another of the same size, but loaded with ammunition. Further questioning provided information that the column was headed for Kirchheim about 30 miles down the road.

Whether to pursue the column that night or wait until the next morning was decided by popular vote. Tonight!

The thirty miles were covered in less than an hour without mishap. No defenses, no rear guard action, nothing in the way of the fast moving patrol. Kirchheim was entered after determining that the Germans had not wished to defend the town.

Questioning another prisoner of war, they found that the enemy had bivouacked in the woods all day and had started out less than 30 minutes ago. The trail was getting hotter!

Down the road went the six vehicles, keeping a sharp lookout on both sides of the road. Then, off to the right they spotted the convoy moving down a path in the woods. The signal to deploy was given and each vehicle chose a series of targets, moved into position and commenced firing. Tracers and burning wagons lit up the night sky and occasionally some persistent German fired an answering round. The lightning swiftness of the attack decided the short battle in favor of the 3rd Platoon and after reassuring themselves that none of the convoy would ever move again, they returned to town for a good night's sleep. Armored Reconnaissance pays off!

COKE-HI



Pictured above: Sgt Manuel Romero, Winner of the Silver Star and Purple Heart of Ventura, Calif., Cpl Sammy Trearichi, Silver Star, Cleveland, Ohio, 5/4 James A. Wyrowski, Bronze Star, Lookport, N. X., T/5 John Lee, Bronze Star, Concord, N. H., Pvt Peter Curione, Omaha, Nebraska.

Tiger Royal Meets 76 -- Runs Out of the Money

The road to Frankfurt-Am-Main was lined with dense forest. Coke-Hi had dropped out of column with a sister destroyer to hold a road junction until the balance of the combat command passed the vital crossing.

300 yards down the road a company of German Infantry leaped-frogged across loaded down with machine guns and bazookas. As soon as they were deployed the firing started... Two TD's against a company of dismounted infantry... A perfect set-up... for the German's.

Seeking support of friendly infantry Coke-Hi caught up to the tail of a lightly armored column and took a defensive position about two hundred yards from a bend in the road....

The unmistakable sound of tanks were moving up the same road... Friendly or enemy... The 76 lay over the back end of the vehicle as the first tank hove into view... Blue uniforms sitting astride the hull were a dead give away... The first round traveled the two hundred yards in nothing flat scattering the mounted infantry, but did not penetrate... The second, third and fourth took scoopsful of metal from the front end and continued on their way. Six more rounds fired in less than a minute all seemed to glance off the heavily armored Royal Tiger. As the smoke of the muzzle blast cleared away an ominous silence settled over the stretch of road between the vehicles.

Then an explosion from the German tank, followed by another and another, the tell-tale flame that adds another Panzer to the ever growing graveyard of Hitler's might.

COCKY



Pictured above: T/4 Arthur O. Beyer, Bronze Star Winner of the building... then suddenly a final spurt... a dead stop and number one was on the way. 4 more rounds to make sure the first wasn't a fluke hit and Cocky had accounted for another of Hitler's diminishing Panzers.

Cocky Runs Gauntlet of Fire-Successfully

At Mallerode, Germany, the Germans are digging in for an attempt at an 11th hour stand... The army on the Rhine had been running for days until they had run out of gas... This is to be their last effort.

At the end of town a German assault gun sat and waited for any vehicle to attempt an entrance. Anything moving up or across the main street would be an easy target... anything except a fast TD named Cocky.

A dismounted reconnaissance made it apparent that the only way to dislodge the German tank would be to attack it from the other side of the road, where houses afforded the necessary protection. To get there however would mean exposing the destroyer to at least two well aimed shots from the enemy.

Speed and daring were the keynote of the operation as the destroyer pulled back for a running start. Heads down, wide open, Cocky hit the street crossing... the first round... over... the second... short... behind the houses she slowed down... came to a halt.

Slowly she inched her way around the corner of the building... then suddenly a final spurt... a dead stop and number one was on the way. 4 more rounds to make sure the first wasn't a fluke hit and Cocky had accounted for another of Hitler's diminishing Panzers.

Inn, Vade, Mass.

Enemy "Strongpoint" "Range 2600" --- "Fire"

"Bring that TD up here", called the Major, "There's an enemy strongpoint holding up the column..."

Corncob slipped into gear and rolled up to the firing position.

"It's about 2600 yards and I've an idea that it's an under-ground pillbox. You'll have to use your concrete piercing shells to penetrate" confided the Major.

Looking through the glasses the gun commander ascertained the object but somehow he seemed to recognize the form of it and questioningly he inquired, "Don't you think it might be some form of machinery, Sir?"

"By God, Sergeant, whatever it is, it's holding up the works, so get your TD up and put some fire down."

The TD rolled up to the crest of the hill, halted, while the crew waited for the commands.

The Major was prepared... "Enemy Strongpoint, Range 2600 --- Fire", he called. The target flew into the air. A direct hit... but somewhere that night a farmer was bemoaning the loss of a fine plow.

Corncob has travelled 4430 miles and has 7 tanks to her credit all of which are designated by the swastikas painted on the gun tube. The argument among the crew has always been whether or not a plow should appear alongside the swastikas.

CORNCOB



Pictured above: Sgt Ralph Stith, Silver Star winner of Richmond, Calif., Cpl Victor Zekis, Chicago, Ill., Cpl Gervas Casler, Bronze Star and Purple Heart holder of Elgin, Okla., T/5 Walter Johnson, Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Astor, Iowa, Pvt Herman Reese, Orange, N. J.