

*Devoted by James S. Seton*

**HEADQUARTERS, 609 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**  
Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky

**HISTORICAL RECORD OF 609 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**  
FOR PERIOD 31 DECEMBER 1944 TO 13 NOVEMBER 1945

- A. Original Unit:** No change.
- B. Changes in Organization:**
1. 11 November 1945--Battalion inactivated in accordance with GO 22 30th HQ & HQ Det, ST 2d Army, Camp Breckinridge, Ky.
- C. Stations (permanent or temporary):**
- ETO--1 January 1945 to 30 August 1945  
Camp Shanks, NY--7 September 1945 to 8 September 1945  
Camp Breckinridge, Ky.--8 September 1945 to end of period.
- D. Marches:**
1. March to rejoin 10th Armd Div after being relieved from operational control of XII Corps. Battalion moved from vic RODENBOURG, LUXEMBOURG (P965221) at 1330, 11 January 1945, to vic COLLIGNY, FRANCE (U970565); the weather was threatening snow, the sky was overcast, and the roads were covered with ice and very slippery. The march was made without incident.
  2. March to rejoin the 3rd Cav. Gp. after being relieved from attachment to 16th Cav. Gp. Battalion left WIRSCHWEILER, GERMANY (L595295) at 2130, 22 March 1945, and moved by way of MERZIG, GERMANY (Q2094) and BOUZANVILLE, FRANCE (Q1277) to SAARLAUFERN, GERMANY (Q285798), closing at 0920, 23 March 1945. The weather was clear, sunny, and cool; the roads were hard surfaced and dusty. The march was made without incident.
  3. The battalion marched from SAARLAUTERN, GERMANY, to NEUSTADT (R2983) to rejoin 10th Armd Div. Unit left at 0600, 24 March 1945, and closed at 1430. Weather clear and sunny, roads good.
  4. The majority of marches in the ETO were not made by the battalion as a unit but by the companies attached to combat commands of the 10th Armd Div; therefore it is difficult to put them down here. The after action reports of the battalion contain records of all the marches made by any units of the battalion.
- E. Campaigns:**
1. Battalion participated in the ARDENNES CAMPAIGN from 1 January 1945 until 18 January 1945 (Authority: Ltr. 7th Army AG 200-6/BPA, 25 June 1945). Battalion was

- attached to 10th Armd Div (Co. A with CCA, Co. C with CCB, Bn (-) with CCR), whose mission was to stop the German break-through at the south flank of the Ardennes Bulge and to protect Luxembourg City.
2. Battalion participated in the RHINELAND CAMPAIGN from 18 January 1945 until 21 March 1945 (Authority: Ltr., 7th Army AG 200-6/BPA, 26 June 1945).
  3. Battalion participated in CAMPAIGN OF CENTRAL EUROPE from 22 March 1945 until 11 May 1945 (Authority: Ltr., 7th Army, A G 200-6/ BPA, 27 June 1945).

**F. Battles:**

1. **BASTOGNE**--Battle took place in the vic of BASTOGNE, BELGIUM (P5558) from 1 January 1945 until 18 January 1945 and was part of the ARDENNES CAMPAIGN. Co. C (plus 2nd Rcn. Platoonsless 1st Platoon) was attached to CCB, 10th Armd Div, with its platoons supporting units of the 101st Airborne Division. The result of the battle was that the vital road center of BASTOGNE was kept from the enemy. The troops from the battalion involved received the Presidential Citation for the BASTOGNE Battle.
2. **TRIER**--Battle took place along approaches to TRIER from the SAAR RIVER from 25 February 1945, when initial movement across the SAAR RIVER was made by 1st Plat. Co. B on rafts, until the battalion closed in TRIER when Bn CP moved into city at 1745, 3 March 1945. Battalion was attached to 10th Armd Div (Co. A with CCB, Co. B with CCA, Co. C with CCR and 376 Inf Regt, 94th Inf Div.) Results of the battle were that the SAAR RIVER was crossed, a large portion of the Siegfried Line was breached, the city of TRIER was taken, and junction was made with 76th Div, 3rd Army, along the MOSELLE RIVER north of TRIER.
3. **CRAILSHEIM**--Battle took place north of CRAILSHEIM (S7066) GERMANY and in and around the town itself from 6 April 1945 until 10 April 1945. The battalion was attached to the 10th Armd Div (Co. A with CCB, Co. B with CCA, and the remainder of the unit with CCR). The result of the battle was that an unknown number of enemy were killed, wounded, and captured; an unestimated amount of enemy materiel was destroyed; but the Division had to withdraw from the CRAILSHEIM area without gaining any strategic advantage.

**G. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:**

1. **BASTOGNE:**  
 Battalion CO--Lt. Col. Roland A. Browne, Cav., until  
 Maj. William E. Shotola, FA, took over at 1340,  
 5 January 1945.  
 C Co.--Capt. Stephen P. Chopak, FA.

2. **TRIER:**

Battalion CO-- Maj. William F. Shotola, FA.  
Rcn Co.--Capt. Arthur F. Mitchell, FA.  
A Co.--Capt. Harold H. Dyke, Jr., FA.  
B Co.--Capt. Albert F. Ahrenholz, FA.  
C Co.-- Capt. Stephen P. Chorak, FA.

3. **CRAILSHEIM:**

Battalion CO--Maj. William F. Shotola, FA.  
Rcn Co.--Capt. Arthur F. Mitchell, FA.  
A Co.--Capt. Harold H. Dyke, Jr., FA.  
B Co.--Capt. Albert F. Ahrenholz, FA.  
C Co.--Capt. Stephen P. Chorak, FA.

H. **Losses in Action, Officers and Men:**

1. **Killed:**

1st Lt. Malcolm K. Grant, Rcn Co., 10 April 1945.  
1st Lt. William N. Fudge, B Co., wounded 6 April 1945  
and died same day.  
1st Lt. Richard M. Davidson, C. Co., 13 March 1945.

Rcn Co.

S/Sgt. Orville E. Estes, 12 April 1945  
Sgt. Richard P. Woodford, 24 February 1945  
Sgt. Alexander E. Morales, 4 April 1945  
PFC. Thomas M. McGonigle, 27 February 1945  
PFC. Horace E. Jackson, 30 March 1945  
PFC. Sylvester E. Frye, 30 March 1945  
PFC. Russel W. Pollock, wounded 30 March 1945 and  
died the same day.  
PFC. Lionel F. Gregoire, 4 April 1945  
PFC. Richard H. Hallock, 10 April 1945

B Co.

S/Sgt. John E. Maher, 10 March 1945  
Sgt. Nelson R. Wilson, 1 March 1945  
Cpl. Dean J. Crockett, 10 April 1945  
PFC. George F. Payne, 25 April 1945  
Pvt. Matthew J. Toman, 10 April 1945  
Pvt. Walter H. Van Cleve, died 9 April of wounds  
received 6 April 1945

C Co.

Sgt. James W. McMonagle, 12 March 1945  
Cpl. Clem J. Hutchinson, 12 March 1945  
T/5 Ralph S. Gray, 12 March 1945  
T/5 John J. Cojitsky, 12 March 1945  
T/5 Stanley F. Pingstock, 30 March 1945  
PFC. Carl B. Lloyd, 24 February 1945  
PFC. Robert S. Curry, 9 April 1945  
Pvt. George E. Wetmore, 9 April 1945

2. **Wounded:**

Pvt. James A. Spencer, 3 January  
1st Lt. David K. Hagens, 9 January  
PFC. Robert H. Hieber, 9 January  
T/5 Andy J. Domenick, 9 January  
Cpl. Anthony J. D'Esposito, 11 January  
T/4 Harold K. Myers, 11 January

T/Sgt. George W. McGough, 14 January  
Cpl. Anthony J. Battaglia, 20 January  
Sgt. James R. Campbell, 22 February  
T/5 Joseph Kahalelio, 23 February  
PFC. Robert J. Drozal, 23 February  
Cpl. Leonard J. Panella, 23 February  
PFC. Joseph R. Watson, 23 February  
PFC. Walter Cannon, 23 February  
PFC. Alfred Marzano, 24 February  
S/Sgt. Baringer S. Long, 27 February  
1st Lt. Francis M. Townsend, 27 February  
PFC. Edward A. Gebo, 27 February  
Sgt. Richard M. Newman, 28 February  
Cpl. Dennis J. Carrol, 28 February  
PFC David S. Bennett, 28 February  
1st Lt. Edgar M. Gray, 27 February  
Cpl. McKinley Byrd, 27 February  
Cpl. Kermit A. Cobb, 1 March  
PFC. Fluvio J. Bari, 2 March  
Pvt. Carl Thompson Jr., 7 March  
PFC. Angelo Buttone Jr., 7 March  
Pvt. Benedict J. Thompson, 7 March  
2nd Lt. Paul W. Barione, 6 March  
S/Sgt. Floyd E. Suber, 12 March  
Cpl. Rudolph Eigenrauch, 12 March  
S/Sgt. Eldredge H. Cashwell, 12 March  
T/5 Richard F. Black, 12 March  
Pvt. Thomas H. Henderson, 13 March  
Pvt. Carl E. Courtney, 13 March  
PFC. Joseph H. Bernard Jr., 13 March  
T/5 Delbert G. Crawford, 15 March  
PFC. Otis J. Bernard, 30 March  
Pvt. Louis S. Dasch, 30 March  
Pvt. Joseph L. Mandella, 2 April  
PFC. Milton Laub, 30 March  
1st Lt. William J. Milligan, 9 April  
T/5 Marvin H. Sumpter, 9 April  
T/5 Clifford H. Howard, 6 April  
PFC Clyde Cagle, 6 April  
T/4 Henry B. Gay, 10 April  
T/5 Clyde L. Sink, 10 April  
S/Sgt. Joseph E. Fillinger, 10 April  
T/5 John H. King, 10 April  
Pvt. Frank Chappel Jr., 10 April  
PFC. Eugene Bakula, 8 April  
Sgt. Ivan H. Feine, 12 April  
T/5 Cecil A. Duncan, 12 April  
PFC. Henry J. Jaraczewski, 10 April  
Sgt. Forrest D. Holland, 10 April

T/5 Woodrow L. Pflugh, 10 April  
PFC. John E. Naylor, 14 April  
T/4 Anthony J. Katuskas, 9 April  
Sgt. Walter E. Allen, 10 April  
S/Sgt. William J. Hamilton, 21 April

3. Missing:

Cpl. Arthur A. Malicki, 6 March  
Pvt. Bruno J. Wazny, 10 April

1. Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action:

Presidential Citation

C Co. less 1st Platoon plus 2nd Platoon, Rcn Co., for participation in the BATTLE OF BASTOGNE.

Silver Star

1st Lt. David K. Hagens, 3 January  
1st Lt. Thomas A. Smith, 23 May  
1st Lt. Malcolm K. Grant, 31 May  
1st Lt. Paul W. Barioni, 31 May  
1st Lt. Robert Figg, 16 July  
S/Sgt. John E. Maher, B Co., 6 April  
S/Sgt. William J. Hamilton, B Co., 23 May  
Sgt. Earl L. Miller, B Co., 11 May  
T/4 Henry B. Gay, B Co., 23 May  
Cpl. James J. Long, Med. Det., 23 May  
PFC. William L. Torlay, B Co., 25 July  
PFC. Chester Golubski, Rcn Co., 16 July  
PFC. Thomas M. McGonigle, Rcn Co., 31 May

Soldiers' Medal

2nd Lt. Malcolm K. Grant, 17 December 1944

Bronze Star

Lt. Col. Roland A. Browne, 27 November 1944  
Capt. Harold H. Dyke Jr., 17 December 1944  
1st Lt. Victor J. Harris, 2 January 1945  
Capt. Albert F. Ahrenholz, 10 January  
1st Lt. Robert W. Mayer, 15 January  
PFC. Frank P. Fuchs, C Co., 26 January  
PFC. Edgar L. Calvert, C Co., 26 January  
Cpl. Colby N. Ricker, C Co., 26 January  
Cpl. Justin D. Double, C Co., 26 January  
Sgt. Richard H. Beaster, C Co., 26 January  
S/Sgt. John W. Garrity, B Co. 31 May; Cluster 11 July  
Sgt. John P. Pilon, C Co., 26 January  
Pvt. Michael J. Hughes, C Co., 26 January  
Pvt. John J. Pendsiwater, C Co., 26 January  
T/5 Robert H. Kurz, C Co., 26 January  
Sgt. Lester H. Andrist, C Co., 15 March

1st Lt. Edward F. Gladden (with Cluster), 15 March  
 1st Lt. Robert Figg, 6 May 1945  
 1st Lt. Patrick J. Troy, 14 May  
 S/Sgt. Joseph E. Fillingier (with cluster), 14 May  
 1st Lt. Malcolm K. Grant, 15 May  
 1st Lt. William M. Fudge, 28 May  
 Maj. William F. Shotola, 29 May  
 Sgt. John A. Bauer, A Co., 30 May  
 PFC. Henry M. Pederson, A Co., 30 May  
 T/5 Kyle Bibbins, A Co., 30 May  
 T/5 Joe B. Cotner, Med. Det., 30 May  
 T/5 Lee D. Patterson, A Co., 30 May  
 Cpl. William P. Watson, A Co., 30 May  
 Cpl. John F. Land, A Co., 30 May  
 T/4 Butler Brock, A Co., 30 May  
 Sgt. Paul W Nichols, A Co., 30 May  
 Sgt. John E. Hinshaw, A Co., 30 May  
 S/Sgt. James Stidem, A Co. 30 May  
 T/Sgt. Walter A. Reifsnyder, Hq. Co. 30 May  
 T/Sgt. George C. Runke, Hq. Co. 30 May  
 1st Lt. Millard J. Frantz, A Co. 30 May  
 Capt. Stephen F. Chorak (with cluster) C Co. 30 May  
 PFC. Frank J. Kuharski, B Co. 30 May  
 PFC. Taylor Highly, B Co. 30 May  
 T/5 Thomas F. Cable, B Co. 30 May  
 Sgt. Jimmie R. Tress, B Co. 30 May  
 Pvt. Matthew J. Tomon, B Co. 30 May  
 Cpl. Dean J. Crockett, B Co. 31 May  
 S/Sgt. Paul Williams, B Co. 31 May  
 T/Sgt. William J. Garlick Jr. B Co. 31 May  
 1st Sgt. Frank J. Kut, B Co. 31 May  
 1st Lt. Wilbur S. Prannon B Co. 31 May  
 PFC. Chauncy R. Spencer B Co. Med. Det. 31 May  
 PFC. David S. Bennett A Co. 31 May  
 PFC. Charles A. Mink Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 PFC. Joseph A. Morrisseau Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 PFC. Vincent Aolecki Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 PFC. Henry J. Jaraczewski, Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 T/5 Woodrow L. Pilugli Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 Sgt. Forrest D. Holland Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 Sgt. Walter E. Allen Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 Sgt. Joseph F. Santos Rcn Co. 31 May  
 PFC. Richard H. Mallock Rcn. Co. 31 May  
 Pvt. Clyde O. Bowers A Co. 1 June  
 T/5 Fred. T. Lehmann A. Co. 1 June  
 Cpl. Dennis J. Carroll A. Co. 1 June  
 T/4 Russel C. Sanford, A. Co. 1 June  
 T/4 Ray King, A Co. 1 June  
 Sgt. James J. Colberg Hq. Co. 1 June  
 S/Sgt. John F. Bowman Hq. Co. 1 June  
 T/Sgt. Brendan F. McLaney Hq. Co. 1 June

T/Sgt. Walter J. Anderson Hq. Co. 1 June  
 S/Sgt. Eoster E. Peterson Hq. Co. 1 June  
 H/Sgt. Roy G. Bailey Hq. Co. 1 June  
 1st Sgt Edwin Janko Jr. Hq. Co. 1 June  
 2nd. Lt. Irving Feld A Co. 1 June  
 1st. Lt. William J. Milligan A Co. 1 June  
 Capt. Henry J. Macmorris Hq. Co. 1 June  
 Capt. Arthur E. Mitchell Ren. Co. 1 June  
 1st. William H. Matina Hq. Co. 1 June  
 W/S Walter W. Kozian Ren. Co. 1 June  
 1st. Lt. Billy B. Parks Ren. Co. 1 June  
 PFC. Tony J. Vila B. Co. 1 June  
 W/S Harmon Davison Jr. B Co. 1 June  
 W/A Leo F. Miller B Co. 1 June  
 Sgt. Elmer T. Brown B Co. 1 June  
 Sgt. Ivan H. Feine B Co. 1 June  
 PFC. William C. Mild Ren. Co. 1 June  
 Cpl. Roy H. Guemmerle Hq. Co. 1 June  
 Sgt. Gerald L. McMullin B Co. 1 June  
 W/S James E. Wilson Med. Det. 1 June  
 S/Sgt. Simon Berman Med. Det. 1 June  
 S/Sgt. Dudley Williams Hq. Co. 1 June  
 S/Sgt. Walter W. Steffen B Co. 1 June  
 S/Sgt. Harold McCann Hq. Co. 1 June  
 W/S John J. Wojitsky C Co. 11 June  
 Cpl. Glen J. Hutchinson C Co. 11 June  
 Cpl. Dewey C. Mann C Co. 11 June  
 Sgt. James W. McManagle C. Co. 11 June  
 Sgt. James E. Cunningham C. Co. 11 June  
 S/Sgt. James D. Gibson C. Co. 11 June  
 1st. Sgt. George C. Flynn Ren. Co. 11 June  
 2nd. Lt. William L. Bayless C. Co. 11 June  
 S/Sgt. Arthur L. Cain C. Co. 11 June  
 S/Sgt. Lyndon F. Barker Ren. Co. 11 June  
 1st. Sgt. Donald C. Louya C Co. 11 June  
 1st. Lt. Clyde E. Harris C. Co. 11 June  
 Cpl. Joseph H. Card C Co. 12 June  
 S/Sgt. Edward B. Boyle Ren. Co. 12 June  
 PFC. Edward H. Campbell B Co. 12 June  
 W/A Alexander DeLoe C C Co. 12 June  
 Sgt. John P. Wessinger C Co. 12 June  
 T/Sgt. George W. McCough C. Co. 12 June  
 2nd. Lt. Edward J. Douthitt B. Co. 12 June  
 PFC. Walter J. Grabow Ren. Co. 12 June  
 PFC. John F. Golden Ren. Co. 12 June  
 1st. Lt. Arthur J. Lorris Hq. 19 June  
 PFC. Donald A. Dunlop Ren. Co. 5 July  
 Cpl. Ouis A. Taylor C. Co. 5 July  
 Cpl. Carmelo K. Mula B. Co. 5 July  
 Cpl. James T. McElone B. Co. 5 July  
 Sgt. Henry J. Koskalski C. Co. 5 July

Sgt. C. w. Martin Jr. C Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. Harold E. Graham Ren Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. Francis J. Ray Ren. Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. James J. Doyle Ren. Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. Harold T. Smith Ren. Col 5 July  
S/Sgt. Earl S. Betts C. Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. Lionel J. Laflamme Ren. 5 July  
Cpl. Joseph A. Martinez B.Co. 5 July  
Cpl. George F. Noebler B Co. 5 July  
T/4. Walter S. Gorski B Co. 5 July  
Sgt. Anthony J. Cocca B Co. 5 July  
Sgt. Arthur W. Fournier B Co. 5 July  
Sgt. Norbert V.J. Gerjing C Co. 5 July  
Sgt. Francis M. Warner C. Co. 5 July  
Sgt. Camillo M. Diritto C Co. 5 July  
Sgt. James C. Smith B. Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. John R. Taffey B. Co. 5 July  
S/Sgt. Arnold M. Guffey C Co. 5 July  
T/5. Ralph S. Gray C. Co. 5 July  
1st. Lt. Edgar N. Gray B.Co. 5 July