

609th Tank Destroyer Bn

609TH TANK DESTROYER BN

Activated: 15 Dec 1941 at Ft Bragg, N.C.

Inactivated: 13 Nov 1945, Cp Breckenridge, Ky.

BATTLE CREDITS: Ardennes-Alsace; Rhineland; Central Europe; Northern France

STATIONS

Departed NY POE	8-11-44	to	8-11-44
England	8-22-44		10-5-44
France	10-5-45		
Germany			
France (Le Havre)			8-30-45
NY POE	9-7-45		9-7-45
Cp Breckenridge, Ky.	9-10-45		11-13-45

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS

24 Aug 44 Arrive England. Trained. Assigned to Third Army.

19 Sep 44

20 Sep 44 Arrive Utah Beach, France.

No report until

1 Oct 44 In Corps Reserve in area of Moutiers, France. Firing supporting
2 Nov 44 missions. *atcd 10 A Div 16 Oct until end of War.*

3 Nov 44 Attached to 10th Armd Div in advance across France to Luxembourg.

21 Dec 44

1-18 Jan 45 Supported defense of Luxembourg City during Ardennes Campaign (Co C)
in Bastogne Pocket.

19-29 Jan 45 Move to Bechy, France. Patrols, firing missions.

30 Jan 45 Move to Metz, France. Continued artillery support.

18 Feb 45

20-26 Feb 45 Move through Sierck, Wincheringen to Mittel, Germany. Assault Saar-
Moselle triangle.

27 Feb 45 Cross Saar River to Beurig. Supporting infantry assault.

2 Mar 45

3-17 Mar 45 Move to Trier, Germany, for support of 10th Armd Div in area of
Ehrange.

609th Tk Destroyer Bn (Cont'd)

- 18-20 Mar 45 Battalion CP moved to Waldrach, Thalfang, Wirschweiler. Attached 16th Cavalry Group. Supporting missions.
- 21-31 Mar 45 Move to vic of Mannheim at Sandhofen.
- 1-29 Apr 45 Move to Garmish - Parlenkirchen. Maintain road blocks and interior guard.
- 30 Apr 45 Move to Kochel. Mopping up operations.
14 May 45

No further information.

609th TD Bn

(Supplementary Report)

- 1-30 Oct 44 XX Corps Reserve vic Moutiers, France. Co C supported XX Corps Arty fire 8 Oct. Co B reinforced 90th Div Arty fire vic Metz 12 Oct. Co C supported XX Corps Arty fire vic Batilly 21-28 Oct. Attached 10th Armd Div 16 Oct 44-8 May 45.
- Nov 44 No report available. 10th Armd Div report states Co A supported CCB vic Metz 2 Nov.
- 1 Dec 44 CP at Rustruff, Germany. Bn attached 10th Armd Div. Co A to CCA; Co B to CCR, Co C to CCB.
- 1-11 Dec 44 Supported 10th Armd Div, Lettingen 2 Dec.
- 11-17 Dec 44 Bn less (Co B) trained.
- 18 Dec 44 Vic Garnich. Co C moved with CCB to support 10th A/B Div at Bastogne, Belgium. Bn -(Co C) in defense 18 Dec., Luxembourg City; vic Beringen, Belgium 21 Dec. Cos A & B under Bn control 26 Dec. Attached XII Corps 27 Dec. Attached 10th Armd Div under tactical control XII Corps at Beringen, Belgium 1 Jan. Attached 10th Armd Div 11 Jan, patrolling. Vic Dieuze, Belgium 17 Jan.
- 25 Jan
27 Feb 45 Trained. Vic Pechy 29 Jan. Reconnaissance vic St Avoild, France; Metz, France 10 Feb.
- 19 Feb
4 Mar 45 Supported Div attack in Saar-Moselle Triangle. Crossed Saar River at Bourig, Germany 27 Feb. Arrived Trier, Germany 3 Mar.
- 5-16 Mar 45 Prepared for attack, patrolled.
- 17-23 Mar 45 Attached 16th Cav Gp; moved to Waldrach 18 Mar. Closed in Saarlautern 23 Mar.
- 24-30 Mar 45 Rehabilitation. Attached 10th Armd Div 24 Mar. Assembled vic Mannheim 28 Mar.
- 30 Mar
1 May 45 Supported attack S&SE toward Wellbronn, Rohrbach 1 Apr; Diebach 12 Apr; Messingen 26 Apr; Garnish 30 Apr.
- 1-8 May 45 Rehabilitation, security.

609th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
December 1941 - September 1944

- 17 December 1941 - Major Russell T. Finn assumed command.
- 22 January 1942 - Pioneer Company and Company C activated.
- 26 April 1942 - Major Gordon V. Holcomb assumed command.
- 3 August 1942 - Battalion reorganized under new Tables of Organization. Pioneer Company redesignated Reconnaissance Company.
- 20 September 1942 - Lieutenant Roland A. Browne assumed command.
- 6 - 10 January 1943 - Battalion training at Fort Hood, Texas.
- 9 June 1943 - Battalion closed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, new permanent station.
- 1 August 1944 - Battalion moved from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for Camp Shanks, New York
- 11 August 1944 - Battalion left Camp Shanks enroute overseas.
- 24 August 1944 - Battalion arrived Liverpool, England. Trained in England until 19 September 1944.
- 20 September 1944 - Battalion arrived Utah Beach 0315 hours. Attached to XX Corps vicinity St. Mars, France.
- 22 September 1944 - Moved to one mile south of Langey, France.
- 23 September 1944 - Moved to five miles south of Eons, France.
- 24 September 1944 - Assigned to 4th Tank Destroyer Group.
- 30 September 1944 - Defensive position east of Moutiers, France, reinforcing defenses south of Vionville.

EXTRACTS OF
AFTER ACTION REPORTS, WORLD WAR II
COMPANY C, 609th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

8 October 1944

Co "C" given mission of supporting fire of XX Corps Arty. Company cleared bivouac E of MOUTIERS (U710710) at 1430 hrs and closed in positions for indirect fire vicinity U720616 at 1530 hrs. Fire missions assigned to Co C by XX Corps Arty and 915 FA Bn. 6828 76mm HE expended on this mission as of 2400 hrs 31 Oct.

3 December 1944

Co C plus one Ren Plat attached to CCB rehabilitating and conducting maintenance at EMBENDORFF (Q045913).

17 December 1944

Co "C" moved out with CCB and closed in MERLE (P815130) at 1600.

18 December 1944

Co "C" less 1st Destroyer Plat moved with CCB to BASTOGNE (P555578) at 1000. 1st Plat was atchd to CCR.

20 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C", atchd to CCR, departed from MERLE (P815130) at 0830 and reported to Co "A", 20th Inf at BERTRANGE (P735138).

21 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C", with Team HOLHOUSE outposted the MERSCH (P820285) ARLON (P615225) road.

23 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C", moved to OBERGLABACH (P256328) atchd to Co "C", 3rd Tank Bn, 10 Arm Div.

25 December 1944

1st Plat Co "C" moved to SCHOUWEILER (P865352).

27 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C" rlyd from CCX, 9th Arm Div, to Bn control. Plat assembled at BERINGEN (P835293) 261300.

28 December 1944

Co "C" (-) was contacted for the first time since their departure to the BASTOGNE (P555578) pocket on 18 Dec 1944. Fifteen enemy MK V tanks and one MK VI tank as well as three AT SP guns were known to have been destroyed. Fourteen of these tanks were destroyed during the period 20 -21 Dec by the 3rd Plat under the command of 1st Lt DAVID K. HAGENS in the vicinity of NOVILLE (P588646). The attacking enemy tanks were on-

gaged as they emerged from the heavy fog at ranges of 200 - 300 yards. One destroyer knocked out five MK V tanks with six rounds. Lt Hagons employed two destroyers in static positions and took advantage of buildings in NOVILLE (P588646) for cover. The other two destroyers of his platoon roved about the village and were prepared to move into numerous positions upon call. The 2nd Flat, commanded by Lt EDWARD GLADDEN, was successfully employed in direct fire at enemy infantry to repel counterattacks. It was while breaking up one of the enemy's persistent counterattacks, that Lt Gladden's plat destroyed a MK V tank with an M-10 Destroyer which was manned by a makoshift crew composed of personnel from Co Hq. The M-10 had been recovered under fire, manned and successfully employed. The Rcn Plat operated directly with elements of the 101st A/B Div and was outposting the BASTOGNE-ARLON highway. Casualties sustained in the BASTOGNE Pocket were 13 men and 8 vehicles (2 M-18's, 2 M-20's, 3 1/4-ton's and 1 2 1/2-ton truck). These losses were principally the result of intensive nightly enemy bombing. The M-18's were lost by enemy AT action. The Company accounted for 48 PsW and an estimated 150 enemy killed.

31 December 1944

At 0700 Co "C" CP moved to (P557572). Four destroyers moved to (P523500) and two to HEMROUILLE (P584600) to give direct support to the 327th A/B Infantry.

14 January 1945

At 0200 destroyer in FAY fired at enemy infantry. All during the night enemy tanks moved about FAY but did not enter the town.

Enemy tanks fired direct fire in support of enemy infantry. At about 0600 enemy tanks, number estimated between 6 and 11, attacked FAY. Destroyer was forced to pull behind a barn because of direct fire from enemy tanks. Friendly infantry began to withdraw. Small arms fire from nearby buildings directed at destroyer. Enemy tanks in FAY on East, West and North roads. Because of destroyer's position, they were forced to abandon it. Destroyer in reserve came down into town on road, fired at enemy tanks, one behind the other. Completely demolished lead tank. Second enemy tank was hit but was recovered. Town fell to enemy.

At 0930, 11th Armored Infantry attacked FAY. Destroyer was recovered. At 0950 destroyer recovered had been hit by one round of AP. At 1300, Recovery vehicle, while towing destroyer back, hit a land mine at P578623.

At 1400, 3rd Plat plus one destroyer of 2nd Plat moved into area of 1st Bn, 506th Inf.

At 1400 2nd Plat moved into area (P5664) of 3rd Bn, 506th Inf.

Ren Plat in 1st Bn, 506th Inf Reserve.

Total Rounds fired: 25 HE, 10 AP.

Two tanks destroyed. Minimum 15 enemy killed.

15 January 1945

3rd Plat attached 1st Bn, 506th. Moved to woods (P5865) in support of infantry. Destroyed 1 Mark IV, damaged another, destroyed a machine gun nest, fired at infantry in a house, fired at enemy infantry digging in. Estimated 25 enemy killed. Rds fired: 30 HE, 5 AP.

2nd Plat moved with 3rd Bn, 506th and advanced with them to forward positions P5665.

Ren Plat moved with Co "C", 1st Bn, 506th and provided ren as they moved.

16 January 1945

Ren Plat moved forward in support of leading company in attack of woods at P5865 and objective to the northeast. Fired at haystacks and suspected terrain locations. Fired 22 rds HE.

2nd Plat moved forward in support of lead company of 3rd Bn 506th to P5666. Fired at enemy infantry in houses and suspected locations. Estimated 40 enemy killed. Fired 20 rds HE and 3 rds AP.

3rd Plat moved forward with leading company in attack on VAUX and continued with the attack to objectives to the northeast (P6067). Destroyed two 88mm AT guns with direct fire (1500 yds), damaged an enemy half-track, fired at enemy infantry, silenced a machine gun nest. Estimated 30 enemy killed. Fired 24 rds HE and 2 rds AP.

CP moved beginning on the 14th from COERU to VAUX (P600675)

17 January 1945

Company released attached to 506th Inf Regt at 0100 and returned to BASTOGNE. At 1330 company moved south to RUMELANGE, closing at 2000 hrs. Billeted for the night.

18 January 1945

Company moved from RUMELANGE at 1000. Closed in ST. JULIEN at 1215 hrs.

29 January 1945

Co "C" (✓) closed in LUPPY (U931434) with 6 off, 142 EM and 36 vehicles at 0940.

- 3 February 1945
 Memorial services for men of Co "C" killed in action at BASTOGNE held at 0900.
 Plat Leaders, Co "C", further perfected c/atk plans with Team Commanders, 3rd Tank Bn.
- 4 February 1945
 Co "C", Hq & Hq Co, engaged in 10th Armored Division salvage drive.
- 5 February 1945
 Co "C", Hq & Hq Co engaged in rehabilitation and training.
- 10 February 1945
 Co "C", reinforced, closed in PONTROY (U940475) at 1200 hours.
- 1 March 1945
 Co "C" (✓) less 3rd Plat, atchd 376 Inf. CP in AYL. 1st Plat destroyed 7 pillboxes, expending 17 rds AP and 64 rds HE in supporting assault of WILTINGEN (L174184) from pos on high ground W of SAAR R. Town fell to assault at 1100. 2nd Plat pos L166154 received heavy S/A and mortar fire. 3rd Plat, atchd CCR reserve, no change.
- 2 March 1945
 Co "C" (✓) less 3rd Plat, atchd 376 Inf Regt, supported attack N from WILTINGEN by firing on pillboxes via PILZEN (L155201) from pos vic (L165185), (L200178) and (L179183). 12 pillboxes destroyed, 2 on killed. Pos received some S/A and AW fire. Co CP at WILTINGEN. Ammunition expended: 242 AP, 153 Ho. 3rd Plat Co "C" in CCR reserve at DEURIG (L150127).
- 9 March 1945
 Co "C", CP moved to SCHWEICH. Closed at 1530.
- 11 March 1945
 Co "C", less 2nd Plat, attached 3rd Cav Sq, CP at KEEM (L279399) 1st Plat atchd Troop "A" and 3rd Plat atchd Troop "C", report no action. 2nd Plat, atchd 43rd Cav Sq, enroute from MIESENBOFF (L279309) to WASEL (L276293) to establish road blocks, received direct enemy AT fire and arty fire vic (L293300) at approximately 1100. 4 Destroyers lost, 1 EM killed, 2 EM wounded, 3 EM missing. 2nd Plat returned to TRIER for re-equipping. One round HE expended.
- 12 March 1945
 Co "C" CP remained in KEEM (L274399). 1st Plat remained in pos vic (L293326). 2nd Plat in TRIER being re-equipped. 3rd Plat in pos, one section at (L333313) and one section at (L333315). Pos received intense arty fire during morning. At 0900 on C/A from E and SW with 3 tks and est 50 inf. Atk repulsed, one MI IV destroyed. 40 rds HE and 5 APO expended. 19 on known killed, 3 POW taken. One off killed, 2 EM wounded.

- 29 March 1945 Co "C" - 3rd Plat moved w/CCR from QUEICHHEIM at 281845 and closed in SAUDHOFEN (M5105) at 290230. 3rd Plat atchd T/F Thackston; 2nd Plat under Bn control; 1st Plat atchd 10th Armd Div Arty.
- 30 March 1945 All elements advanced S and SE of MANNHEIM with 10th Armd Div.
- 10 April 1945 Co "C", atchd CCR. 1st Plat remained atchd 634 FA Bn vic CRAILSHEIM. 2nd Plat, atchd T/F Thackston, in ILSHOFEN. In C/atk morning of 10 April, plat got one SP gun and fired on two others. Ammunition expenditure not reported. 3rd Plat, atchd CCR, remained vic CRAILSHEIM. No action report received. 2nd Ren Plat running patrol on roads between CGA and CCR, Liaison between T/F Roberts and ILSHOFEN, keeping roads open. On 9 April one 1/4-Ten ambushed and lost. 2 EM wounded. At 101630 2nd Ren Plat on road patrol vic REPPENHOFEN (S505683) was attd by estimated 100 En Inf and 2 MK IV or MK V tks. One officer and two EM missing in action; 3 EM wounded, one half-track and one M-5 light tank lost to En AT fire.
- 12 April 1945 "B" and "C" Companies advanced with Combat Commands across Kocher River.
- 23 April 1945 Co "C", atchd CCR, CP & 3rd Plat in EMANGEN (Y470 668). 1st Plat atchd 634 FA, reported destruction of 1 88 mm gun, position unknown.
- 27 April 1945 Co "C", atchd CCR, CP and 2d Plat moved from MANNHEIM (Y045490) to BUC LOE at 1500. 3rd Plat, atchd T/F THACKSTON closed in BUC LOE at 1400. Enemy horse drawn column encountered vic DEBENHAU (X975500) and plat fired 99 rds HE and 1 AP killing 25 en and destroying 4 vehicles.
- 30 April 1945 All elements engaged in rehabilitation and resupply. 1st Plat Co "C" held atchd 634 FA and rejoined company.
- 3 May 1945 All elements held attachments and reverted to Bn. Control 1300. Unit engaged in rehabilitation and training.
- 9 May 1945 Battalion participated in Division parade at 1300.