

HEADQUARTERS, THIRD TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 230

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FILE

6 January 1945



SUBJECT: Action Against The Enemy, Report After/After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Through Channels)

1. Tank Destroyer Units operating in the V Corps sector during the period 1 December through 31 December 1944 and attachments were:

TD UNITS	DATES OPERATIONAL WITH CORPS	ATTACHED TO
893rd TD Bn (less Co A)	1 - 11 December 1944	8th Infantry Division
Co A, 893rd TD Bn	1 - 11 December 1944	102nd Cavalry Group
893rd TD Bn (less Co C)	11 - 22 December 1944	78th Infantry Division
Co C, 893rd TD Bn	11 - 27 December 1944	102nd Cavalry Group
644th TD Bn	1 - 11 December 1944	8th Infantry Division
644th TD Bn (less Co B)	11 - 31 December 1944	2nd Infantry Division
Co B, 644th TD Bn	11 - 13 December 1944	8th Infantry Division
Co B, 644th TD Bn	23 - 24 December 1944	2nd Infantry Division
Co B, 644th TD Bn	24 - 31 December 1944	1st Infantry Division
801st TD Bn	1 - 29 December 1944	99th Infantry Division
801st TD Bn (less Co A)	29 - 31 December 1944	99th Infantry Division
Co A, 801st TD Bn	29 - 31 December 1944	9th Infantry Division
899th TD Bn	1 - 6 December 1944	9th Infantry Division
899th TD Bn (less Co B)	19 - 23 December 1944	9th Infantry Division
899th TD Bn	23 - 31 December 1944	9th Infantry Division
Co C, 899th TD Bn	18 - 19 December 1944	47th Inf Regt, 9th Inf Div
Co C, 628th TD Bn	1 - 18 December 1944	OCB, 5th Armored Division
Co C, 628th TD Bn	21 - 24 December 1944	OCB, 5th Armored Division
817th TD Bn	9 - 18 December 1944	8th Infantry Division
Co C, 634th TD Bn	6 - 13 December 1944	16th Inf Regt, 1st Inf Div
634th TD Bn	18 - 31 December 1944	1st Infantry Division
612th TD Bn	12 - 13 December 1944	2nd Infantry Division
612th TD Bn (less Co A)	13 - 29 December 1944	2nd Infantry Division
Co A, 612th TD Bn	13 - 29 December 1944	9th Infantry Division
612th TD Bn	29 - 31 December 1944	2nd Infantry Division
Co A, 811th TD Bn	13 - 16 December 1944	OCB, 9th Armored Division
823rd TD Bn	18 - 20 December 1944	30th Infantry Division
703rd TD Bn	18 - 20 December 1944	1st Infantry Division
703rd TD Bn (less Co B)	20 - 24 December 1944	1st Infantry Division
Co C, 703rd TD Bn	24 - 31 December 1944	26th Inf Regt, 1st Inf Div
134th AAA Bn (TD role)	19 - 20 December 1944	3rd TD Group
134th AAA Bn (TD role)	20 - 26 December 1944	1st Infantry Division
413th AAA Bn (TD role)	19 - 20 December 1944	3rd TD Group
413th AAA Bn (TD role)	20 - 24 December 1944	9th Infantry Division
413th AAA Bn (less Btry's A&B)	24 - 31 December 1944	9th Infantry Division

2. During the period, the following targets were engaged by Tank Destroyers of V Corps with results indicated:

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a. Tanks knocked out _____ 78

Tiger Royal	2
Mark VI Tiger	13
Mark V	34
Mark IV	8
Unidentified	21 (see Note)
Tanks damaged and listed as "probable"	4

NOTE: Low visibility caused by fog and mist during the 18th and 19th of December in the vicinity of ELSENBOORN, BELGIUM resulted in 70 vs tank engagements at ranges as low as 50 yards. Identifications to the extent of determining the type of enemy tank under these conditions was impossible in most cases.

Halftracks destroyed	4
SP guns destroyed	3
A7 guns destroyed	2
A4 guns destroyed (complete with crew)	1
Machine gun nests destroyed	14
General Purpose vehicles destroyed	7
Fortified strongpoints reduced	12
OP's knocked out	2
Enemy planes shot down	1 (MB-109)
Pillboxes destroyed	3
Pillboxes damaged resulting in capture	3



b. Known Enemy Killed _____ 121
P/S's taken _____ 72

c. Two of the tanks (Mark V's) destroyed included in Par 2. above were knocked out by "bazooka fire" delivered by personnel of Reconnaissance Company, Headquarters, 64th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP), when the enemy overran the Battalion Forward Supply Point.

3. a. Tank Destroyer Units engaged in indirect fire tied in with Field Artillery Units of the Divisions to deliver:

Harassing missions	225
Interdiction missions	67
Destruction missions	3
Registration missions	13
Illuminating missions	12

firing a total of:

HE Normal Charge	5,919 rounds	3-inch
HE Reduced Charge	3,409 rounds	3-inch
Smoke	6 rounds	3-inch
Star Shell	320 rounds	3-inch
HE	2,296 rounds	90mm

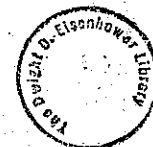
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b. "Sniping" indirect fire was effectively employed by the 1st Division Artillery with the 90mm gun. Enemy vehicles, moving along a road across the 1st Division front only a few hundred yards of which was visible to the F.O., remained in view approximately 30 seconds before becoming defiladed again. The flat trajectory and high velocity of the 90mm gun made it possible to bring fire on the vehicles using the road. Four guns were placed in position approximately 7,000 yards from the target. Their defiladed position protected the guns from enemy direct fire and lessened chances of the enemy locating the position. By employing the fire of two guns at a time on the target, fire was delivered around the clock on enemy vehicles using the supply route.

c. The 3-inch Star Shell, Navy, M54 was fired by Tank Destroyer Units in conjunction with supported units during the period. Results have been highly satisfactory. On one of the missions, the F.O. called for illumination over BULLINGEN, BELGIUM. The Division Artillery S-3, controlling the indirect fires of the Tank Destroyer, ordered four rounds of Star Shell fired in rapid succession 10-mils apart over the target area. The resulting light disclosed six (6) German tanks in the process of refueling. Immediately, seven (7) battalions of artillery were brought down TOT. The F.O. reported violent explosions and fires in the target area.

Samuel E. Mays
SAMUEL E. MAYS
Lt Colonel Inf
Commanding



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S-3 Journal, 3rd TD Gp.

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