

S E C R E T

S-E-C-R-E-T :
 : AUTH: CG V Corps :
 : DATE: 13 Feb 45 :
 : INIT: :

HEADQUARTERS, 3D TANK DESTROYER GROUP
 TD - AT SECTION
 WPO 230 US ARMY



13 February 1945

SUBJECT: History of Tank Destroyer Section, 3d Tank Destroyer Group.
 TO : Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C.

1. The Tank Destroyer Section of the 3d Tank Destroyer Group continued to operate at the V Corps CP in RUSSEL, BELGIUM. The consolidation of the Corps Anti-Tank sub-section with the Tank Destroyer section has resulted in increased operating efficiency and more concentrated efforts in representing the Tank Destroyer picture as it exists in the Corps.

2. In addition to publishing the daily Tank Destroyer Disposition with overlay and operations of Tank Destroyer units, the TD - AT Section reproduced and distributed drawings of both friendly and enemy armor and excerpts from publications concerning anti-tank operations and enemy tank operations.

3. Liaison with the Army Anti-Tank Office and Tank Destroyer Battalions in the Corps was maintained throughout the month.

4. At the request of this headquarters, Captain Fletcher of Company C, 802nd Engineer (camouflage) Battalion visited the OP on 12 January 1945 and discussed the camouflage of vehicles in snow-covered terrain. Due to the unavailability of paint he stated that a mixture of lime, salt and water was being used. Major Fuller coordinated the acquisition of material and camouflage teams for the Tank Destroyer Battalions which were desirous of having vehicles camouflaged.

5. In line with the camouflage of vehicles, two-piece snow suits were obtained and issued to Tank Destroyer Battalions in the Corps in the amount of fifteen (15) per battalion.

6. A shortage of "slip sticks" for Graphic Firing Tables, to be used by the Tank Destroyer Battalions while in the indirect fire role, made it necessary for Major Dougherty to contact a local cabinet maker and have some made. These are being issued on the basis of eighteen (18) per battalion.

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

7. The T/O and E 18 - 25, dated 15 March 1944, for SP units authorized firing companies two (2) M-20 armored cars for each of three 1½-Ton trucks. During months of combat the gun company platoon 1½-Ton truck had been used solely as a supply vehicle. Because of its low silhouette, power, and room in the bed of the truck it was found that this vehicle was well fitted for transporting supplies to the destroyer platoons. The exchange of these vehicles would result in a loss to the Tank Destroyer companies. First U.S. Army Headquarters approved a request that one 1½-Ton truck be retained by each Tank Destroyer company on a loan basis and would be subject to recall on 24-hour notice pending approval of a special project which had been submitted to the War Department.

8. During the month Captain Cafferata and Captain Lanuti, the Group dentists, surveyed and treated personnel of the Battalions in the Corps and the two Belgian Army companies which are attached to the 3d Tank Destroyer Group. A total of 260 patients were treated and the general condition of the masticators was found to be good.

9. The 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion maintained a rest center in EUPEN during the month of January. The Group Entertainment Director, Technician Grade V James Cope, was highly commended for his activity in furnishing magazines, cards, stationery, Stars and Stripes, and council books directly to this Battalion rest center. In addition to this, Technician Grade V Cope arranged for and showed several motion pictures. Personnel were rotated and had the benefit of hot baths and relaxation while in the rear area.

10. On 23 January 1945 Lt. Col. Mays was presented the Bronze Star by the Commanding General, V Corps, for meritorious service while commanding the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

JOHN W. WALSH
 Captain, TD
 Group Historian

S E C R E T