

HEADQUARTERS, 3rd TANK DESTROYER GROUP
APO 230

10 August 1944

"HISTORY OF THE 3rd TANK DESTROYER GROUP"
(1 July - 1 August)



1. On 1 July 1944, preparations for the arrival of the 629th and 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalions were completed. The Group was in close liaison with all Anti-Tank Sub-Sections of V Corps, and recommended policies for the employment of both towed and Self-propelled Battalions.
2. Elements of the 629th and 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalions began to arrive on 2 July 1944, and were guided to their respective assembly areas. Both battalions began immediate reconnaissance for positions from which to repel any armored attack in the Corps sector. The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion was assigned the 1st Infantry Division sector and the 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion the 2nd Infantry Division Sector, as their zones of primary responsibility. Their plans include support of any other Tank Destroyer Battalion in the V Corps.
3. By far the most important event of 3 July to Captain Earl H. Fuller, was a letter from Columbia, S. C. stating that a son had been born to Mrs Fuller on 17 June 1944.
4. 1st Lt Frederick Christian, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and 2nd Lt Leonard Burgess, 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, reported to the Group on 3 July as Liaison Officers from their battalions.
5. During the following two-week period, the Group Commander and staff continued daily contact with the 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, and V Corps, and all the Tank Destroyer Battalions to formulate plans for the best possible employment of the Tank Destroyer battalions in the V Corps Sector.
6. The Tank Destroyers supported the 38th Infantry Regiment's attack on Hill 192 on 11 July 1944 with the 612th and 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion. Colonel Matthews went to the Regimental Command Post and remained where he could advise the Regimental Commander, Colonel Zwicker, in the employment of Tank Destroyer's in support of the 38th Infantry.
7. On the 13th of July 1944, Lt Johnson and 8 enlisted men from the 41st Replacement Training Battalion were attached to Group. They were attached to receive field training while awaiting assignment.
8. Captain George J. Haylon, who was on SD as Liaison Officer for V Corps, returned to the Group and was assigned as Headquarters Company Commandant, replacing Captain John W. Walsh, who was assigned as Assistant S - 3.

discussed until the Operation took place on the 24th of July. The 3rd Tank Destroyer Group was Corps Reserve for this operation. A Direct Telephone Line was laid to V Corps Anti-Tank Sub-Section and Colonel Matthews, Captain Fuller, and Master Sergeant Mansfield, Operations Sergeant for Group, moved to Corps CP for a day in order to be immediately available in the event the reserve was needed. Good communications thereafter enabled Colonel Matthews to move forward and work with the battalions and at the same time keep in communication with Corps Headquarters. The Operation "COBRA" continued for the remainder of the month. Progress was good, and to keep close to the activities, the Group CP moved 3 times. The locations were T608528, T591487, and T621403. Major Elbert M. Roberts was relieved of S - 2 duties on 29 July 1944 and went to V Corps Hear CP, pending transfer.

for the Group Commander:

11. The shelling of nearby areas provided the Group with its only excitement until 20 July 1944. On that date, at about 0800, a 150-mm shell burst in one of the apple orchards used as a bivouac area. The largest casualty suffered was Lt Christian Valet-Pak, his body hanging in a tree and looked like a sieve after Captain TD (AUS) examining the contents, Lt Christian found his blouse was shredded. Both sleeves were cut off. Major Dougherty also had a fragment rip his Valet-Pak.

12. FO #12 for Operation "COBRA" was received on the 18th of July, and plans and conferences between the Group and the Battalions were discussed until the Operation took place on the 24th of July. The 3rd Tank Destroyer Group was Corps Reserve for this operation. A Direct Telephone Line was laid to V Corps Anti-Tank Sub-Section and Colonel Matthews, Captain Fuller, and Master Sergeant Mansfield, Operations Sergeant for Group, moved to Corps CP for a day in order to be immediately available in the event the reserve was needed. Good communications thereafter enabled Colonel Matthews to move forward and work with the battalions and at the same time keep in communication with Corps Headquarters. The Operation "COBRA" continued for the remainder of the month. Progress was good, and to keep close to the activities, the Group CP moved 3 times. The locations were T608528, T591487, and T621403. Major Elbert M. Roberts was relieved of S - 2 duties on 29 July 1944 and went to V Corps Hear CP, pending transfer.

13. There were no casualties in the Group during the first two months in the Normandy Beachhead

for the Group Commander:



RAYMOND J. BLACKWELL
 Captain, TD (AUS)
 Assistant S - 3