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**HEADQUARTERS  
5TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP  
APO 758, U.S. ARMY**



10 May 1945

**SUBJECT:** Report After Operations Against the Enemy.

**TO :** Adjutant General, Army War College, War Department, Washington, D.C.

**THROUGH:** Commanding General, Seventh U. S. Army, APO 758, US Army (Attention: Historian), and Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 436, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 dtd 18 Nov 1929, and change 4, dtd 10 Aug 1944, and ltr, Hq WTCUSA, Subject: "Handling of Historical Documents in the European Theater of Operations", file AG 312.1 Op History, dtd 14 July 1944, the following report is submitted.

2. Arabic numerals following certain statements refer to the serial numbers of the pertinent entries in the attached Unit Journal of this organization. See inclosure #1.

3. Report After Operations Against the Enemy, 010001 April to 302400 April 1945:

1st April 1945, the Hq 5th TD Group assigned to Seventh Army and attached to XV Corps was located in GROS UNSTADT, Germany (M828414), Map of GERMANY. Tank destroyer battalions in XV Corps were disposed as follows: On Corps left (North) flank the 645th TD Bn supported the 45th Inf Div. On Corps right (South) flank, the 601st TD Bn supported the 3d Inf Div. In a reserve position behind the 45th Div, the 776th TD Bn was assembled with the 44th Inf Div. The 636th TD Bn was attached to the 14th Armd Div in a reserve assembly area.

The Armd Section, Seventh Army, notified 5th TD Group that 12 radios of 300 series were being recommended per TD battalion to expedite communications, which coincided with recommendation of the Group Commander. S-2, 776th TD Bn, visited Group CP for tactical information of the Corps (6). Approximately 8 enemy tanks were observed by XV Corps troops but none were reported in action (21).

2 April, the 636th TD Bn, attached to 14th Armd Div, moved up and began to pass through the 3d and 45th Divs. The 14th Armd Div destroyed 3 SP guns and the 3d Div destroyed another (48).

3 April, CO and S-4 of Armd Section, Seventh Army, visited Group CP and conferred with the CO on the subject of vehicles for TD units and on the march of the 14th Armd Div. Group CO accompanied these officers to XV Corps (54). 636th TD Bn destroyed one tank or SP gun while supporting OCS, 14th Armd Div (69).

4 April, the air in support of XV Corps attacked 7 tanks and claimed 4 destroyed. S-4, 776th TD Bn, visited the Group CP, reference captured vehicles (87). The 14th Armd Div destroyed 3 tanks and the 106th Cav Group liquidated a Mk IV (92).

051100, Group CP displaced forward to LOHR (M315565), closing into the new area at 051314Z. Distance traveled was 47 miles (103). The 636th TD Bn destroyed a German SP gun during the day. The 191st Tank Bn destroyed 3 tanks (112).

6th April, S-3, Armd Section of Army, came to Group CP on the subject of TD daily reports (124). The 14th Armd Div encountered a group of 2 SP guns and 5 Mk V tanks which were destroyed by friendly tank fire. In addition 2 SP's were captured, having been abandoned previously. 2 abandoned tanks were found and destroyed by 45th Div (135).

7th April the Group CP displaced forward to ZWITERSBACH (M4292), a distance of 39 miles (146). CP closed in the old location at 1100Z and opened at ZWITERSBACH at 1445Z. Group personnel aided in treatment and evacuation of 7 civilian casualties, two of which

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more fatalities (150). During the day tanks and SP guns, numbering in excess of 20, were in action against XV Corps troops, of which the following were destroyed: 645 TD Bn, 1 SP gun; 636 TD Bn, 3 tanks; 601st TD Bn, 2 tanks; 14th Armd Div, 7 tanks and 2 SP guns. In addition, aircraft supporting the XV Corps attacked 6 tanks and 2 SP guns in the vicinity of STEINACH and reportedly destroyed 2 tanks, and 45th Div destroyed 2 tanks (164).

8 April, the 3rd Div surrounded a group of 10 M4 V tanks in the vicinity of STEINACH and liquidated them or forced the crews to destroy them (180). 601st TD Bn claimed to have destroyed 3 of this total. Supporting aircraft destroyed one tank in addition.

9th April, the billeting party, 5th TD Group, selected billets at BAD NEUHAUS (N774-940). The main body followed, closing the old CP at 1100 and opening CP in the new location at 1434. Distance traveled was 35 miles (199). 2 German deserters were evacuated by Group Asst S-3 to Corps PWK. The 14th Armd Div destroyed 2 SP guns and air claimed a tk (212).

10 April, Colonel L.E. Jacoby, CO, 5th TD Group, was presented the Croix de Guerre with one palm and the Legion of Honor in grade of Chevalier for exceptional military service during the operation of the liberation of FRANCE. Presentation was made by French officers in the name of General DeCaillie in a ceremony at XV Corps Headquarters. (218). There was no enemy armor reported in contact with XV Corps troops on this date (232).

11 April, Opns Instns #172, Hq, XV Corps, directed that the attack be continued SE in the XV Corps zone (243). There was no armor contacted by XV Corps but civilian and PW statements indicated the presence of at least two tanks in HASSFURT, at that time about 10 Km ahead of advance elements (247).

12 April, the Group billeting party departed to the vicinity of EBERN (O/187705) and selected billets in preparation for the move on the following day (256). Opns Instns #173 directed the continuation of the attack (260). The situation remained fluid and only one enemy tank was reported in the Corps sector which was destroyed by 14th Armd Div (270). Reports from civilian sources placed an additional 4 - 12 tanks in the sector of 14th Armd Div.

13 April, Group CP displaced forward to EBERN, closing the old CP at 1100 and opening the new at 1338. Distance travelled was 42 miles (278). Enemy armor was active in the area of HAMBURG. 25 to 30 enemy tanks or SP's were reported in that vicinity. Of this number 21 were claimed destroyed by the following units: 14th Armd Div - 1, the 191st Tk Bn - 11, Arty - 2, and 186th Cav Gp - 7 (289).

14 April, 5th TD Gp received Opns Instns #176, Hq, XV Corps, which directed the Corps to continue the attack to the SE and capture the NURNBERG (incl.) - BAYREUTH (encl) Autobahn (309). No change in mission was given to 5th TD Gp. The 645th TD Bn, supporting the 45th Div destroyed 2 enemy tanks and air supporting the Corps reported the destruction of 2 tanks (310).

15 April, the advance party moved forward to the vicinity of HAMBURG and selected a new CP. The CP closed in EBERN at 0940 and all elements arrived in HAMBURG (O/289504) by 1520 (319). The distance traveled was 25.4 miles. More than 20 tanks and SP's were encountered by the 14th Armd Div, of which 12 tanks and 2 SP's were destroyed. Close support air claimed the destruction of 2 tanks (325).

16 April, the attack continued and 2 more tanks were destroyed by the 14th Armd Div. 2 SP's were claimed by air action (346).

17 April, Opns Instns #177, Hq XV Corps, directed the attack of XV Corps directly south on NURNBERG. There was no change in the mission of the 5th TD Gp (349). The Group CP displaced forward to ERLANGEN (O/364169), closing into the new CP at 1305. Distance traveled was 27.3 miles (357). There were small groups of tanks encountered during the day. 14th Armd Div destroyed 1 SP gun, the 45th Div and 645th TD Bn one tank each, and the 3d Inf Div 2 tanks (365).

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18th April, 692d TD Bn (SP - M-36), attached to 42d Inf Div, joined XV Corps. The Gp CO visited the 692d TD Bn and acquainted the battalion CO with the TD policies of XV Corps (377). Enemy armor contact was limited to the destruction of 4 SP guns which were attempting a delaying action. 2 were destroyed by the 645th TD Bn, 1 by the 645th TD Bn, and 1 by the 14th Armd Div. The 645th TD Bn shot down a Panzerfaust-firing "Storch" sub-plane (385).

19th April the 636th TD Bn lost an M-36 completely burned to enemy bazooka fire. Tank destroyer was damaged by a German grenade. The only armored activity was the destruction of one SP gun by the 45th Div (406).

20th April, the Armored Officer of Seventh Army conferred with the Group Commander on the problem of replacement tracks and vehicles for TD units (414). The CO and S-2 visited the review of XV Corps troops in the Adolf Hitler Place at MÜNCHENBERG. 14th Armd Div destroyed 2 SP guns (431).

21st April, the advance party moved forward to the vicinity of SCHWABACH and selected a new GP. The GP closed in the old location at 1326 and opened at SCHWABACH (O/394864) at 1314. Distance traveled was 27.8 miles (444). 601st TD Bn, attached to 3d Inf Div, reverted to Army at 210200. The enemy suffered the loss of 2 tanks and 2 SP's destroyed by the 14th Armd Div (449).

22 April, 20 - 30 tanks and SP's were observed in the XV Corps sector. The two reports of destruction were of 2 Mk IV tanks and 1 SP gun by the 636th TD Bn, and one tank of unknown type by Corps arty (474).

231120 April, the 14th Armd Div passed to control of III Corps. 636th TD Bn reverted to XV Corps control under 5th TD Gp (491). At 231710, 5th TD Gp received an order to assemble 636th TD Bn at GROMHEIM (T/1359) prepared to move to rejoin 36th Div. CO, 5th TD Gp, ordered the 636th TD Bn to assemble at the designated location, furnishing route, IP, and convoy number. The CO, 636th TD Bn, visited the Group GP and received the order at 18028 (494). 6 tanks were observed in the XV Corps sector, of which 1 was destroyed by the enemy. The 106th Cav also reported receiving SP fire late in the afternoon (497).

24 April, 5th TD Gp received Opns Instrs #183, XV Corps, which attached 20th Armd Div (no attached TD Bn) to the XV Corps (503). It further directed the continuation of the attack in a SE direction, to cross the DONAU RIVER, seize a bridgehead, and be prepared to advance SE on Corps order. There was no change of mission for 5th TD Gp. 241630, liaison officer, 636th TD Bn, reported in to Group GP with the report that the battalion closed into the assembly area at 241200, less 6 M-36's which closed in before dark (512). No enemy armor was reported in the XV Corps sector. 692d TD Bn destroyed a ME 109, which was strafing the column of "C" Company, by .50 caliber fire from a tank destroyer.

25 April, CO 8th TD Group, III Corps, visited the GP and conferred with the Gp Comdr (524). The 5th TD Gp arranged for a reconnaissance company officer from the 636th TD Bn to be placed on special duty with the 645th TD Bn to cover a shortage of officers in the Hon Co of 645th TD Bn. (534) At 252100, the 636th TD Bn was ordered to move without delay to the XXI Corps sector preparatory to re-attachment to the 36th Div (538). The billetting party, Hq 5th TD Gp, went forward to the vicinity of MÜNHEIM (T/2931) preparatory to the contemplated move of the GP on 26th April (525). During the day 7 tanks were reported by civilian and PW sources, and some SP fire was encountered in the advance to the DONAU RIVER. In addition, the 692d TD Bn destroyed a Mk IV, 2 half-tracks, and a towed AT gun while supporting a special armor and infantry detachment (541).

26 April, GP 5th TD Gp moved forward from SCHWABACH to WARCHING (T/3231). The old GP closed at 1030 and the new GP opened at 1240. Distance traveled was 41.6 miles (551). The 636th TD Bn began movement to XXI Corps at 261000B as per ltr movement order, Hq Seventh Army, dated 25 April (562). Enemy self-propelled guns were active during the day, harassing the crossings of the DONAU RIVER in the sectors of 42d and 45th Divisions. Air reported and took under fire 3 - 4 tanks just south of the DONAU RIVER (568)

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27th April, Group S-4 went on S/D to G-4, XV Corps, to aid in regulating traffic the crossing of the DONAU RIVER by Corps troops and 20th Arm Div (574). Opns Instns directed the continuation of the attack toward MUNCHEN. There was no change in the status of 5th TD Gp. 6 - 8 tanks and SP's were reported in action against or observed by XV Corps, of which 1 tank was claimed by close air support. (593)

28th April, 3 PW's were taken by the guard at 0100. Gp CP closed at WARCHING at 1352 and moved 25 miles south to STAUBERIN (388164), crossing the Danube River at 1500 and opening the new CP at 1645 (607). Enemy armor was inactive, only one tank was reported observed (613). The 3d Div (601 TD Bn atchd) came under control of XV Corps, to aid in the attack on MUNCHEN.

29th April, one officer PW was taken at 0535 (616). Opns Instns #188, Hq XV Corps, furnished the details of the attack on MUNCHEN (617). In order to keep up with the rapidly moving situation, the Group CP displaced 22 miles forward to AICHACH (509898) (630). The CP closed in the old location at 1334 and opened at 1542. The 42d Div destroyed one tank during the day.

30 April at 1605 Group CP again displaced forward, this time to DAGHAU (745690), a distance of 23 miles. The CP closed in the new location at 20178 (651).

Total PW's for the month taken and evacuated by Group Hq and Hq Co: 10, including 1 officer.

The dentists of 5th TD Gp worked on personnel of the 601st and 645th TD Bns for 19 and 11 days respectively. At the end of the period, the dentists were preparing to leave the 601st and go to the 645th TD Bn.

The chaplain of 5th TD Gp was atchd to 645th TD Bn for the month of April and rendered services to personnel of that unit and neighboring infantry troops.

For the period covered, the CO, 5th TD Gp, served as AT Officer for XV Corps. During this period XV Corps is credited with knocking out 100 tanks and 27 SP guns. Since XV Corps became operational 3116008 July 1944, the cumulative total of tanks and SP guns destroyed by all troops, assigned, attached, or in support of XV Corps totals 1148. Of these 1148 tanks and SP guns destroyed, 89 were eliminated by 5th TD Gp and 773d TD Bn, while on temporary detached service with V Corps during the period 17 - 22 August 1944.

Daily TD Reports, 601st, 645th, and 692d TD Bn's are enclosed to show total destruction of enemy material by these battalions.



L. E. JACOBY  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

6 Incls.

- Incl #1 - Unit Journal, Hq, 5th TD Gp, 1 - 30 April 1945 w/ supporting papers.
- Incl #2 - Record of AT Section, XV Corps of enemy tanks destroyed during April 1945.
- Incl #3 - Award of Croix de Guerre avec Palmes and Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur to Group Commander.
- Incl #4 - Daily TD Report, 601st TD Bn, covering period 30 April
- Incl #5 - Daily TD Report, 645th TD Bn, covering period 30 April
- Incl #6 - Daily TD Report, 692d TD Bn, covering period 30 April

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