

**SECRET**

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

5 March 1945

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, U.S. Army (Attention: Historian), and Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 436, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105, dated 18 November 1929, and change 4, dated 10 August 1944, and Ltr, Hq, HTOUSA, Subject: "Handling of Historical Documents in the European Theater of Operations", File AG 312.10 Op History, dated 14 July 1944, the following report is submitted.

2. Arabic numbers following certain statements refer to the serial numbers of pertinent entries in the attached unit journal of this organization.

3. Report After Operations Against the Enemy, 010001 February to 282400 February 1945:

1 February 1945, Hq, 5th Tank Destroyer Group, assigned to Seventh Army and atchd to XV Corps, was located in PENETRANCE, (4727), GSGS 4471, Sheet XXXV-9, Map of FRANCE, 1/50,000. Tank Destroyer battalions in XV Corps were employed as follows: On Corps right (East) flank the 824th TD Bn (T) was supporting the 100th Inf Div. West of the 100th Division was the 44th Inf Div (reinforced) supported by the 776th TD Bn (SP, M-36). West of the 44th Division was TF HERRON (70th Div -) and on Corps left (West) flank was the 106th Cav Gp. In a reserve position in the rear of 44th and 100th Div was GCB, 10th Armd Div, with Co "A", 609th TD Bn (SP, M-18) atchd. The remainder of the 10th Armd Div and 609th TD Bn were in a reserve position behind the 106th Cav Gp and TF HERRON.

1 February found a very static situation on the XV Corps front. Enemy tanks had not been reported in action for a period of over two weeks.

3rd February, CO, 5th TD Gp, received word that the 822d TD Bn (T) was arriving from the UK and would be committed in the XV Corps (46). The Group Ex visited the 106th Cav Gp and established liaison (45). The CO, 822d TD Bn, visited Group CP and was oriented on its tactical situation (61). It was decided that the 822d would be committed with 63d Div (formerly TF HARRIS, atchd to the 44th Inf Div). The battalion was reported to be scheduled for arrival in the Corps zone on the 5th February.

4th February, the Ex of 776th TD Bn visited Group CP and conferred with the Group Commander (72). 051845 the 822d TD Bn reported that all elements of the battalion had closed in the assembly area vicinity of HAMBACH (4951).

6th February, Col. Ewing, Chief of Armored Section, Seventh Army, visited Group CP and conferred with the Group Commander on policy and tactics of TD's (121). During the day of 7 February, the enemy reacted to a limited objective attack of the 70th Div (formerly TF Herron) with 2 or 3 SP guns and some armored cars. The 1st platoon of "B" Co, 609th TD Bn, was alerted for employment by the 70th Div (141). In addition Co "B", 822d TD Bn, was alerted for movement to the 70th Div and by dark 8 February, the company closed into the 70th Div sector (141).

8 February, Hq, 5th TD Gp, received a letter which authorized personnel of the Hq and Hq Co, 5th TD Gp to wear the battle star for the Northern France campaign (166). Corps Artillery fired on an enemy tank, observed 4 hits and claimed the destruction of the tank.

9 February, 5th TD Gp received a letter authorizing personnel of Hq & Hq Co, 5th TD Gp to wear the Bronze Battle Star for the Germany Campaign (191). The CO and S-2, 776th TD Bn visited Group CP and discussed the present situation (189). 5th TD Group received Operations Instructions #115 which directed the formulation of plans for XV Corps attack to obtain limited objectives (190).

- 1 -

**SECRET**

SECRET



February 10th Armd Div, 609th TD Bn atchd began movement from XV Corps  
the 12th Armd Div, 827th TD Bn atchd began closing into XV Corps area.

11 February, CO and S-3, 5th TD Gp visited 822d TD Bn and the 63d Inf Div. (241)  
827th TD Bn atchd to 12th Armd Div closed into Corps area and on 12 February was  
detached from 12th Armd Div by Army order and moved to a destination outside the  
Corps zone. The 2d Fr Armd Div, 1st RBFM TD Bn atchd began to move into XV Corps zone  
prior to 122400. The remainder of the division closed into the Corps zone beginning  
13th February.

13th February, CO, 5th TD Gp, visited the armored section of Seventh Army to  
inquire about the status of the 648th TD Bn, which was scheduled to arrive in the XV  
Corps zone and to be attached to the 70th Inf Div (281). No positive information was  
available. There were three tanks or SP guns destroyed by XV Corps artillery.

14th February, 5th TD Gp received FO #20, Hq, XV Corps, which directed a limited  
objective attack in order to straighten out the front lines. No change in TD attach-  
ments was made (295). CO, 648th TD Bn, reported to Group Headquarters the afternoon  
of the 14th February and was oriented on the tactical situation (310).

15th February the attack jumped off prior to daylight. The 44th Div, reinforced  
by the 749th Tank Bn and 776th TD Bn, moved forward on a 3 regimental front and reached  
its objectives. 776th TD Bn moved forward and provided assault fire for the infantry  
and over watched the tanks. One enemy tank was destroyed by friendly tanks and eight  
enemy tanks were destroyed by artillery fire. A PW who was reported to be from 17  
SS Tk Bn revealed that his battalion consisted of 40 assault guns and was in the  
battle area completely fueled and ready to fight. During the day approximately 10 -  
15 enemy tanks and 10 SP guns were observed on the divisional front (335).

16th February, the 648th TD Bn (T) closed into the 70th Division area and ini-  
tiated reconnaissance of the division zone prior to commitment. Group Executive  
Officer, Major W. V. Giles, was promoted to Lt. Colonel.

The enemy reacted to the 44th Div attack and counterattacked on the 16th with  
infantry supported by about 14 tanks. No tanks were successful in penetrating friendly  
positions because of heavy concentrations of artillery and TD fire. 7 tanks were  
reported destroyed by artillery, others damaged, and the 776th TD Bn reported one  
enemy tank destroyed. One TD was badly damaged by an enemy mine and considered to be  
a total loss (358).

On D + 2 (17th February) the 63d and 70th Divisions reinforced jumped off before  
daylight and advanced to their initial objectives. The enemy reacted to the attack  
of the 70th Division by a counterattack supported by about 8 tanks or SP guns. A  
heavy concentration of artillery and tank fire forced the enemy armor to withdraw.  
Enemy armor in the zone of the 44th Div was again active and 776th TD Bn destroyed 2  
tanks and damaged a third at close range during a pre-dawn German counterattack.  
Artillery claimed 3 tanks destroyed and one tank was destroyed by bazooka fire (385).  
The 648th TD Bn continued reconnaissance with a view of relieving Co "B", 822d TD Bn,  
prior to its movement to the 63d Div, 19th February. S-3 of 648th TD Bn was oriented  
on reports and operation procedures of XV Corps (370). The following day 3 enemy  
tanks were destroyed by Corps artillery.

19 February, the Inspector General, XV Corps, visited the Group Headquarters to  
make his annual inspection (417). Small groups of enemy tanks were in action against  
the Corps. Artillery destroyed 2, infantry destroyed one, and the 776 TD Bn destroyed  
one.

20th February, enemy SP guns again were in action in the sector of the 70th and  
44th Divisions. Artillery fire destroyed one and damaged two (453).

The 648th TD Bn was committed completely on 21 February and began rendering close  
support to the infantry. 22 February, 749th Tank Bn destroyed an enemy tank in the  
sector of the 70th Division. The following day 70th Div artillery destroyed another  
tank.

24th February, Group S-4 contacted Army Ordnance and arranged a release for 12  
volt conversion kit for 648th TD Bn. An allotment of HVAP ammunition was received,  
the first to arrive in the Seventh Army.

SECRET

**SECRET**

24th February, the 63d Division made a limited objective attack and met a reaction of 6 - 8 enemy SP's which fired on advance infantry elements prior to the arrival TD's, which were unable to advance before the roads had been cleared. Three SP's were destroyed by air, and one tank each was destroyed by the 776th TD Bn and the 44th Div artillery. Armored Section, Seventh Army, notified 5th TD Group that the 824th TD Bn was receiving 5 M-18' TD's to train with prior to the reorganization of the battalion as a self-propelled unit.

24th February, Ex Officer and S-4, 824th TD Bn visited the GP, 5th TD Group, and conferred with the Group Executive on problems relative to reorganization (529). CO, 101st Cav Group, which had relieved the 106th Cav Group, visited Group GP and requested TD support for his sector (331). It was felt at Corps and Group that due to the 100% commitment of TD's within the divisions that none could be spared at that date.

26th February, 5th TD Group received Opns Instns #127 which directed that the 70th and 63d Divisions with 648th and 822d TD Bns be attached to XXI Corps, effective by 281200 February (565). CO, 16th TD Group and staff, visited Group GP and were oriented on operations and procedures of 5th TD Group (572).

27 February, Corps G-4 informed 5th TD Group of a plan to distribute 12 each of the 36 towed guns released by the reorganization of the 824th TD Bn as an SP unit to the divisions and Corps artillery for use in ground target radar "sniping", in reinforcing artillery, and in firing illuminating shells.

28 February, 2d French Armored Division, 1st REFM TD Bn attached, was relieved from XV Corps for movement outside the army zone. At 281200, 822d and 648th TD Bns were relieved from XV Corps control and with the divisions to which they were attached came under control of XXI Corps. FO #21, XV Corps, dtd 281600 Feb, again designated 5th TD Group as responsible for the coordination of the AT defense of XV Corps during the continuance of the aggressive defense (615).

The dentists of 5th TD Group were attached to 824th TD Bn for the period and provided dental service for the personnel of that unit.

The Group Chaplain was attached to the 824th and 776th TD Bns and held services for personnel of these units, Hq Co, 5th TD Group, and other neighboring troops.

For the period covered, the CO of 5th TD Group served as AT officer for XV Corps. During this period XV Corps is credited with knocking out 39 tanks and 3 self-propelled guns. Since XV Corps became operational 311600B July 1944, the cumulative total of tanks and self-propelled guns liquidated by all troops assigned, attached, or in support of XV Corps totals 951. Of these 951 tanks and self-propelled guns liquidated, 89 were eliminated by Hq, 5th TD Group and 773d TD Bn on temporary detached service with V Corps during the period 17 - 22 August 1944.

Daily TD reports of 776th and 824th TD Bns are enclosed to show total destruction of enemy materiel by these battalions.

*L. E. Jacoby*  
L. E. JACOBY  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding



4 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Unit Journal, Hq, 5th TD Group, 1 - 28 February 45  
w/ supporting papers.
- Incl #2 - Record of AT Section, XV Corps, of Enemy Tanks Destroyed during February 1945
- Incl #3 - Daily TD Report, 776th TD Bn, dtd 28 Feb 45
- Incl #4 - Daily TD Report, 824th TD Bn, dtd 28 Feb 45

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- Copies herewith for:
- Adj Gen, WD, USA - 2
- CG, Seventh U.S. Army - 1
- Information copy furnished direct to:
- CG, 1st TD Brigade - 1

**SECRET**