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**HEADQUARTERS  
5TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP  
APO 796, U.S. ARMY**



8 February 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 798, 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with AR 345-105, dated 18 November 1939, and change 4, dated 10 August 1944, and ltr, Hq, ETOUSA, Subject: "Handling of Historical Documents in the European Theater of Operations", File AG 312.1 Op History, dtd 14 July 1944, the following report is submitted.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 numbers 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 January 1945 to 312400 January 1945:

1 January 1945, Hq, 5th Tank Destroyer Group was located in DIEUDONNE, (9495L), Sheet XXXVI-13, GSGS 4416, Map of France, 1/50,000. Tank destroyer battalions in XV Corps were employed as follows: On Corps right flank in the HARDY MOUNTAINS and attached to 100th Inf Div, was the 824th TD Bn (Towed) less Co "A". In Corps center was the 44th Inf Div with the 776th TD Bn (SP, M-36) attached. West of the 44th Div was the 103d Inf Div with the 614th TD Bn (T) attached. Protecting Corps' North-west flank was the 106th Cav Group with Co "A", 824th TD Bn, attached. 636th TD Bn attached to 36th Inf Div was in a rest area near SARRSBOURG, after being in heavy action South of STRASBOURG.

During the night 31 December - 1 January the Germans attacked in the Eastern portion of the 44th Inf Div sector. This attacking force was from the 17 SS Panzer Grenadier Division, reported later to be operating with forty-seven 75mm assault guns, a Mk V company of twenty tanks, and thirty Czech flame-throwing light tanks. Upon recommendation of the CG, 5th TD Group at 021030, Co "B", 614th TD Bn, was attd to 44th Div and moved into the sector of the left regiment, working under 776th TD Bn, which left the 776th free to mass all their mobile tank destroyers against the attack (34). The 827th TD Bn, attd to 12th Armored Div, committed Co "A" on a screening mission in the sector of 103d Div. This company underwent no action on this mission. In Corps reserve was CCL, 2d French Armored Div, with the elements of 1st BEFM TD Bn attd. Group SX visited 636th TD Bn, attached to 36th Div in the SARRSBOURG area and learned that Co "A", 636th TD Bn, moved to the WALDHANSBACH area with RT 141, while the remainder of the battalion remained in the rest area refitting (38).

During the night 2 - 3 January, the 17 SS Pz Gren Div advanced with armor and infantry on a narrow front in the sector of the 44th Div through GROS REUSCHING (6252) to ACHEN (6050). CCL, 2d French Armored Div, with attd TD's, was committed to eliminate this penetration. By evening the salient had been driven back by the CCL with the help of the 100th Div. A total of 6 enemy tanks were reported destroyed by the French tanks and TD's. By 031500 January the remainder of the 2d French Armored Div closed into reserve positions.

3 January, the remainder of the 636th TD Bn moved with 36th Div to the general area of MONTBROCK, on XV Corps Southwest flank.

5 January, Colonel Coolidge of the War Department visited Group CP and conferred with the Group Commander. Colonel Coolidge was then guided to the CP of the 614th TD Bn by a Group staff officer and conferred with the battalion commander and other personnel of the unit concerning the Negro soldier in combat (107).

6 January, an officer of 636th TD Bn visited the Group CP to receive a copy of 5th TD Group SOI and other communication procedures (128). Battalion commander of 827th TD Bn reported in to the CP and conferred with the Group Commander (130).

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the 17th Armored Div was relieved of attachment to XV Corps. Co "A", 87th TD Bn, moved from its screening mission to the battalion assembly area, prior to moving for VI Corps zone.

8 January, 1st platoon "A" Company, 776th TD Bn moved into 397th Inf, 10th Division sector to add mobility on the threatened AT defense (179). The Group Commander visited the CP of 397th Inf to coordinate this defense (180). Later that day at 1545, Co "B", 776th TD Bn (less one platoon) and Company "B", 749th Tank Bn were detached from the 44th Div and attached to 100th Div, further attached to RCT 397 (181). 5th D Gp maintained a liaison officer at the 397th Inf CP until the serious tank threat was considered no longer present on 10 January (183-205). During this period of action in the vicinity of RUDLING, 4 tanks were destroyed by tank destroyer action against the loss of 2 destroyers and the damage of one towed 3-inch gun.

10 January, the Group Commander consulted with the Commanding General of the 44th Inf Div and 44th Inf Div Arty on matters pertaining to employment of the 776th TD Bn (224). Group communications officer contacted the XV Corps Signal Officer on reported signal security violations.

11 January, Co "B", 614th TD Bn was relieved of its attachment to 44th Div and switched positions with Co "A", 824th TD Bn in 106th Cav Gp sector. Co "A", 824th TD Bn assumed the positions formerly held by Co "B", 614th TD Bn. This change was completed at dark on 11 January (245).

151025 January, CO, 5th TD Gp received a telephone call from G-3, XV Corps, to report to Corps for the purpose of making recommendations for the 5th paragraph of the next Corps field order (262). 152330, XV Corps published FO #17 which charged the 5th TD Gp with the coordination of AT defense in the Corps. FO #17 further directed that 103d Div with 614th TD Bn atchd was relieved from XV Corps and passed to control of XXI Corps in position. XXI Corps assumed command of area on XV Corps left (west) flank (277).

14 January, Operations Instructions #97 directed that 36th Division send one RCT with one TD Company atchd (Co "A", 636th TD Bn) to sector of 103d Div (319). 14th and 15th January, Group S-4 visited Army rear echelon and obtained quartermaster items for Rq, 5th TD Gp (339).

15th January, 5th TD Gp sent out a billeting party to FINKENANCE. The following day, Group CP moved to FINKENANCE (476277 GSOS 4471 Sheet XXV-9), a distance of 4.3 miles (327-342).

18th January, 636th TD Bn (less Co "B" atchd to RCT 141 on XV Corps right flank) departed for VI Corps with the 36th Div (-) (375).

In order to aid the situation east of the VOSS S MTS, the 2d French Arm'd Div, 1st RIFM TD Bn atchd, was ordered out of the XV Corps zone. Movement began the 18th and was completed the 21st of January.

19th January, 5th TD Gp was notified that 807th TD Bn (T) was arriving in XV Corps area from Third Army to be atchd to 101st Abn Div (405A). 20th January, CO, 807th TD Bn reported to Group CP and was oriented on the SOP's of TD Bns in the XV Corps (421). The battalion assembled in the DRELDINGEN area later that day, prior to its commitment on the XV Corps front.

20th January, the Group Commander went to Seventh Army Hq at LUNEVILLE to confer with the Army Artillery and AT Officer (419).

21 January, CO, 5th TD Group visited the 100th Div CP where he talked with the CG's of 100th and 101st Div's (449). It was recommended by the Group Commander that the 807th TD Bn be placed in support of the 398th Inf Regt of the 100th Div when this regiment relieved the 141st Inf, 36th Div. This recommendation was approved by the Division Commanders and Corps G-3, and when this relief was effected by the 398th Inf Regt, 100th Inf Div, 24 guns of 807th TD Bn were in AT positions.

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In the evening of 21 January Colonel Clyburn from the War Department conferred with the Group Commander on how tank destroyers have been employed in the experience of this organization and was given recommendations for changes desired (458).

22 January, Lt Hoofnagel, 895th AAA Bn, gave a demonstration of the principles of a remote control spotlight for AT firing at night. The possibilities for employment of this light were discussed with CO, 5th TD Group. A letter was sent to G-3, IV Corps, recommending aid in construction of pilot models to be used in practical tests (467).

23rd January it was learned that the 35th Div (less 1 RCT) was closing in the DISWZ area, that the division would be committed on the XV Corps front. Attached to the 35th Div was the 654th TD Bn, SF, (N-10). It was also learned that the 101st Abn Div would not be committed in XV Corps. 807th TD Bn was earmarked to leave with the 101st Abn division. However the 807th TD Bn was attached in position to 35th Div, pending relief by the 654th TD Bn (500).

24th January, CO, 654th TD Bn, and AT Officer, 35th Division, visited the Group CP and were oriented on the tactical situation and were given the SOP's of tank destroyers in the Corps (514). By 242200 the 654th TD Bn, less 1 TD Company, closed in to assembly positions in the rear of the lines and began the relief of 807th TD Bn and elements of the VI Corps TD units. The relief was completed the morning of 25 January and the 807th TD Bn began movement to VI Corps zone.

25th January, when it became known that IV Corps would assume command of the XXI Corps zone, Group Ex and G-3 visited the 609th TD Bn, attached to 10th Armd Div in the XXI Corps sector. The battalion commander was oriented on the tactical situation of the remainder of the Corps and was given TD operating procedures of the Corps (539).

FO #19, XV Corps, dtd 251700 again designated 5th TD Gp as responsible for the anti-tank defense of the Corps, in the continuation of the defense attitude. Tank destroyer battalions in the Corps were now disposed as follows. On Corps east flank, was the 654th TD Bn (-) supporting 35th Inf Div (-). West of the 654th was the 824th TD Bn less company "A" supporting the 100th Inf Div. In the Corps center was the 776th TD Bn and Company "A" 824th TD Bn supporting the 44th Inf Div (reinforced). Screening the 100th and 44th Inf Div was the GCB, 10th Armd Div with Company "A" 609th TD Bn attached. West of the 44th Div on Corps west flank was TF Herron and 106th Cav, supported by a reserve of the remainder of the 10th Armd Div which had the 609th TD Bn (-) attached (544).

27 January, CO and Ex, 776th TD Bn visited the CP, 5th TD Gp and talked with the Group Commander on the current situation (569). The Ex and G-1, 824th TD Bn conferred with the Group G-1 with reference to the reorganization of the battalion as a self-propelled battalion (576).

28 January, HQ, 5th TD Gp received official notification of the award of the Battle Star for the NORMANDY CAMPAIGN to personnel of this unit (598).

29th January, 654th TD Bn was alerted to move with 35th Div to destination outside of the Army boundary (612). On recommendation of the Group Commander, Co "A" 824th TD Bn, was relieved of attachment to the 44th Div and was re-attached to 100th Div in order to provide AT defense in the sector of the regiment of the 100th Div which was to assume the responsibility for part of the zone of the 35th Div.

By 300800 January, the 398th Inf, 100th Div, supported by Co "A" 824th TD Bn, relieved the left (north-west) regiment of the 35th Div, establishing a new Corps right flank (639).

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

The Group chaplains were attached to battalions of XV Corps. The catholic chaplain was attached to 824th TD Bn and provided services for that unit and Hq Co, 5th TD Gp. The protestant chaplain was attached to the 776th TD Bn until 10 January when he was evacuated through medical channels via the 116th Evac Hosp.

For the period covered, the Commanding Officer of the 5th TD Gp served as the AT officer for XV Corps. During this period, the XV Corps is credited with knocking out 77 tanks and one self-propelled gun, of which 37 tanks were claimed by air action.

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of XV Corps totals 909. Of this 909 tanks and self-propelled guns liquidated, 89 were eliminated by Hq, 5th TD Gp and 773d TD Bn on temporary detached service with V Corps during the period 17 August to 22 August 1944.

Daily TD reports of 609th, 776th and 824th TD Bn's dtd 31 January 1945 are enclosed in order to show total destruction of enemy material by these battalions.

*L. V. Jacoby*  
 L. V. JACOBY  
 Colonel, VA  
 Commanding



5 Incl

- Incl #1 - Unit Journal, Hq, 5th TD Gp, 1 - 31 Jan 45 w/supporting papers.
- Incl #2 - Record of AF Section, XV Corps, of enemy tanks destroyed during January 1945.
- Incl #3 - Daily TD Rep, 609th TD Bn, dtd 31 Jan 45.
- Incl #4 - Daily TD Rep, 776th TD Bn, dtd 31 Jan 45.
- Incl #5 - Daily TD Rep, 824th TD Bn, dtd 31 Jan 45.

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