COMPANY "A" 601st TANK DESTROYER BN.
A.P.O. # 302 V.S. ARMY

26 March 1943

SUBJECT: Operation Report

Commanding Officer, 601st Tank Destroyer Bn.



About noon March 21, 1913 I was ordered to take command of the one platoon of Company "A" 601st T-D Bn. since Lt. Marcus the platoon leader had been wounded by bomb fragments. My mission at that time was reserve platoon for "C" Company against a possible tank thrust in a position about 2 miles S.E. of El Guettar. The platoon remained in this vicinity until 0300 hours March 23 when it was ordered up to a position about 4 miles S.E. of El Guettar to protect the pass on the Gafsa - Gabes road. I placed three of my guns on defilade on the North side of the road and one on the South side, all guns covering the road entering the pass. Shortly after daylight German Tanks approached us from the East traveling on the main road. I waited until the leading vehicle got within 800 yds and then ordered my plateon up to the crest to open fire. About the same time the unit on my right flank, units in the valley and the field artillery opened up thus making it difficult to observe the results of the firing of my plateon. The tanks then withdrew, reorganized and began to circle the high ground. To the right flank in an attempt to out flank our position on the high ground. At this time I counted well over 30 tanks circling to the right. I ordered two of my guns to take them under fire, keeping the other guns ready against another thrust at the pass. The combined fire of the artillery and Tank Destroyer elements on my right turned this thrust back before they had gotten 1000 yards from the hill. My platoon did no more firing until noon when an unidentified American half-track towing a field piece came down the road towards the pass. I held my fire because I was afraid that it was Americans escaping from the battlefield but when 7 Germans dismounted and placed the gun in position I ordered 2 of my guns to open up. About 20 rounds were expended which blew up the gun and vehicle. ater reports proved 5 Germans killed and two captured. We remained in the same position the rest of the day, that night, and the following morning, all the time under heavy artillery fire and bombing. At 1200 March 24 my platoon was relieved by a platoon of the 701st Tank Destroyer Bn.

FREDERICK C. MINER

1st Lt FA

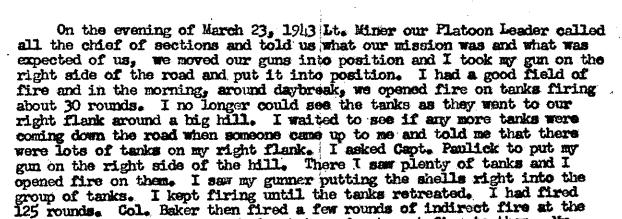


COMPANY "A" 601st TANK DESTROYER EN. A.P.O. # 302 U.S. ARMY

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TO : Commanding Officer, 601st Tank Destroyer Bn.



tanks that were already knocked out in order to set fire to them. My gummer Cpl Kenny was hurt by shrapnel in the knee and we no longer could fire at the tanks as they were to far out to fire at.

CHESTER KAROLEWSKI
Sgt. Co. "A" 601st T-D Bn.

COMPANY "A" 601st TANK DESTROYER EN.
A.P.O. # 302 U.S. ARMY

26 arch 1943

SUBJECT: Operation Report

TO & Commanding Officer, 601st Tank Destroyer Bn.



Company "A" of the 601st Tank Destroy: In under the command of Lt.
Miner went into position just off the El Guettar - Gabes road about 6 miles
S.E. of El Guettar on March 23 at 0300. We were in a well defilated position
among the ridges. Our mission was to prevent any armored force from coming
through the pass. Shortly after daylight several vehicles were observed
coming across the valley. It. Miner ordered us to the crest of the ridge
and we opened fire. After firing 5 rounds we were ordered back down to our
former position because we could not observe anything due to intense dust
and smoke caused by artillery fire. "ater in the morning Lt. Miner again ordered
us into the crest of the hill to destroy a half-track carrying 10 enemy Troops
and towing a light artillery piece. We fired ten rounds and after our mission
was completed we dropped back to defilated position where we remained overmight through to noon of March 24 when we were relieved.

JOHN J. CONWAY Sgt. Co. "A" 601st T-D Bn.

John J. Conway