

HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 230  
U S Army  
3 January 1945

MEMORANDUM: Destruction of German Armor by 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion (- Company B) in Operation 17, 18, and 19 December 1944, In and Near ROCHERATH, KRINKELT, and WIRTZFELD, BELGIUM. - Effect of Fire.

TO : See Distribution

Refer to Overlay No 1.

1st Platoon, Company "C" - Platoon Leader, 2d Lt OWEN R MC DERMOTT

Destroyer No 4

Time and date of action: 170800 December 1944

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark IV	Northeast	10	11	500	BDF

1st round BDF penetrated side and stopped the tank. Ten (10) rounds of BDF were fired to set tank on fire and at personnel milling around tank. Mark IV was firing at Destroyer, No 4 and scored one (1) direct hit on the mantlet. Total effect: Burned.

After this action Destroyer No 4 moved up hillside to take under fire other enemy tanks that by this time had moved further down the ravine.

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark IV	Northeast	10	4	500	BDF

1st round penetrated the side and stopped the tank. 2d, 3rd and 4th rounds penetrated the side and set the tank on fire. Total effect: Burned

This tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move destroyer from initial firing position.

Note: Destroyer No 1 fired four (4) rounds of BDF at tank at the same time Destroyer No 4 had it under fire. Results of individual rounds unknown. Destroyer crew feels positive that one or more rounds hit the tank.

Gun crew and their positions:

- Sgt Thomas M Myers, 33391439, Gun Commander, turret
- Sgt William R Hooper, 34130304, Driver, driver's compartment
- Pfc George S Oswald, 33480248, Gunner, turret
- Pvt Dennis A Hebert, Jr, 38001888, Loader, turret
- Pvt George H Brewer, 33418425, Asst Driver, Radio

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark V	Northeast	10	4	800	BDF

1st round penetrated the side and stopped the tank. 2d and 3rd rounds penetrated side; results unknown. 4th round penetrated the side and set the tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

This tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the Destroyer from initial firing position.

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark V	Northeast	10	4	900	BDF

1st round penetrated the side and stopped the tank. 2d and 3rd rounds penetrated the side; results unknown. 4th round penetrated the side and set the tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

This tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from the initial firing position.

S E C R E T

Destroyed.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Half-track	Northeast	10	4	1000	BDF

Personnel  
Carrier

1st round penetrated the side and set the half-track on fire. 2d, 3rd and 4th rounds were fired at personnel around vehicle. Total effect: Burned.

The half-track was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from the initial firing position.

Gun crew and their positions:

2d Lt OWEN R McDERMOTT, 0880903, Platoon Leader, destroyer deck.  
Sgt George E Holiday, 39690004, Gun Commander, turret  
Tec 5 Bernard H Nuth, Jr, 33540771, Driver, drivers compartment  
Pvt Henry J McVeigh, 31292207, Gunner, turret  
Pvt Edward J Kummer, 33475504, Loader, turret  
Pvt John P Grumaldi, 31211042, Asst driver, Radio  
Pvt Henry A Bragg, 33723553, Asst Loader, turret

II Refer to Overlay No 2

Time and date of action: 191000 December 1944

Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	South	15	1	100	HVAP
			2	100	BDF

1st round HVAP penetrated side and stopped the tank. 2d, and 3rd round BDF penetrated side and set the tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

This tank was firing at houses and personnel. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from the initial firing position.

Gun crew and their positions:

Tec 5 Bernard H Nuth, Jr, 33540771, Gun Commander and Driver  
Pvt Henry J McVeigh, 31292207, Gunner, turret  
Pvt Edward J Kummer, 33475504, Loader, turret  
Pvt John P Grumaldi, 31211042, Asst Driver, Radio  
Pvt Henry A Bragg, 33723553, Asst Loader, turret

Destroyer No 2

Time and date of action: 191730 December 1944

Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		2	350	HE
			3	350	APC

Tank was not visible from the destroyer. 2 rounds HE fired and adjusted by Observer: Results unknown. 3 round APC fired on request of observer, penetrated side and set fire to tank. Effect of individual rounds unknown. Total effect: Burned.

This tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from initial firing position.

Gun crew and their positions:

Cpl Carroll Hohensee, 34103355, Gun Commander, turret  
Cpl Chester R Giezentanner, 36553308, Gunner, turret  
Tec 5 Richard F Hayhurst, 31050882, Driver, drivers compartment  
Pvt Samuel Josefowitz, 32698448, Asst Loader, turret  
Pvt Carl W Netter, 33475104, Asst Driver, Radio

2d Platoon, Company "C" - Platoon Leader, 1st Lt RAYMOND F

KILLGALLEN

Destroyer No 4

Time and date of action: 181100 December 1944

Destroyed.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		5	200	BDF

S E C R E T

**S E C R E T**

1st and 2d round, misses, 3rd, 4th and 5th rounds penetrated side and set tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

This tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from the initial firing position.

Gun crew and their positions:

Sgt Elias Belles, 33457915, Gun Commander, turret  
 Cpl Joseph R Santovito, 33476201, Gunner, turret  
 Tec 5 Francis R Cox, 33082609, Driver, drivers compartment  
 Pfc James P Mendelero, 32066738, Loader, turret  
 Pfc Donald D Sullivan, 36726989, Asst Driver, Radio



Destroyer No 2

Time and date of action: 181800 December 1944

Disabled

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark V	South	5	1 3	100 100	HE BDF

Effect of individual rounds unknown because of poor visibility. Rounds hit head on through or against glacis plate of turret. Tank was not firing. Total effect: Knocked out of action.

Disabled

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark V	South	5	1 4	100 100	HE BDF

Effect of individual rounds not known because of poor visibility. This tank pulled around 9 and was hit on front. May have been recovered at night. Total effect: Knocked out of action.

This tank was not firing. After the action with tank 9 and 10 it was necessary to move the destroyer from initial firing position because of an enemy flare which landed on the rear deck of the destroyer preventing visibility and silhouetting the destroyer.

Gun crew and their positions:

Sgt John L Hartzog, 34145467, Gun Commander, turret  
 Cpl Lloyd G Watson, 33418300, Gunner, turret  
 Tec 5 William L Stephens, 33418267, Driver, drivers compartment  
 Pvt Santiago Gonzales, 39690660, Loader, turret

Destroyer No 3

Time and date of action: 191445 December 1944

Destroyed

TYPE	DIRECTION MOVING	MPH	NO RDS	RANGE	TYPE AMMO
Mark V	Stationary		5	300	BDF

1st round penetrated side and stopped the tank. 2d, 3rd, 4th and 5th penetrated side and set tank on fire. Total effect: Burned. Tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from the initial firing position.

Destroyed

TYPE: Mark V. These tanks were not visible to the destroyer. Fire was adjusted by Arty Observer. Number of rounds and type of ammunition unknown. Tanks were stationary and believed not to have been firing. Total effect: Destroyed (Announced by Arty Observer)

Gun crew and their positions:

Sgt Elias Belles, 33459715, Gun Commander, turret  
 Sgt Clestion L Chester, 36553859, Gun Commander, turret  
 Cpl Benjamin R Tambourine, 33418232, Gunner, turret  
 Tec 5 William JWells, 34456256, Driver, driver's compartment  
 Pvt Gerald R Vallee, 31267952, Loader, turret  
 Pvt Andrew J King, 33104613, Asst Driver, Radio

**S E C R E T**

S E C R E T

3rd Platoon, Company C - Platoon Leader, Staff Sergeant Henry P Mutz

Destroyer No 4

Time and date of action: 181100 December 1944

(14) Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	South	20	3	250	BDF
			2	250	APC
			1	250	HVAP

1st and 2d rounds BDF ricocheted off glacis plate. 3rd round BDF missed. 2 rounds APC penetrated rear of tank. 1 round HVAP penetrated rear of tank, stopped the tank and set it on fire. Total effect: Burned.

This tank had fired at a Sherman tank and an ambulance. It was not necessary to move the Destroyer from the initial firing position. Tank was moving at a high speed, down the road, past the destroyer position.

Gun crew and their positions:

Sgt Stanley V Kepinski, 32183519, Gun Commander, turret  
 Tec 5 Lewis R Powers, 33390134, Driver, drivers compartment  
 Pfc Ivan Evernden, 39324133, Gunner, turret  
 Pfc Clair B Witherow, 33255225, Loader, turret  
 Pvt Charles A Cox, 34871300, Asst Driver, Radio

2d Platoon, Company A - - Platoon Leader, 2d Lt PHILIP A DICARLO

Destroyer No 2

Time and date of action : 191400 December 1944

(15) Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		2	50	BDF
			1	50-	HVAP

Tank was reported disabled by infantry prior to time destroyer took it under fire. 2 rounds BDF fired at front of tank; result unknown. 1 round HVAP penetrated front and set tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

Tank was not firing. The destroyer had to move to a cover position because of strafing.

(16) Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Northwest	10	1	25	HVAP

1 round HVAP penetrated side and set tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

Tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the Destroyer from initial firing position.

Time and date of action: 192500 December 1944

(17) Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
TD SP with 70 & 87mm	Stationary		2	100	BDF

SP was reported disabled by infantry prior to time destroyer took it under fire. Extent unknown. 1st round penetrated side and set the tank on fire. 2 round penetrated side and further added to the fire started by 1st round. Total effect: Burned.

Vehicle was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from initial firing position.

Time and date of action: 191530 December 1944

(18) Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		1	125	HVAP

1 round penetrated side and set tank on fire. Total effect: Burned.

Tank was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer, from the initial firing position.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

19 Destroyer

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
TB Sp with 75 & 37mm	Stationary		2	125	BDF

2 rounds BDF penetrated side and set fire to vehicle. Effect of individual rounds unknown. Total effect: Burned. vehicle was not firing. It was not necessary to move the destroyer from the initial firing position.

Gun crew and their positions:

Sgt Melvin A Mounts, 33418358, Gun Commander, turret  
 Tec 4 John F Fisher, 30236273, Driver, drivers compartment  
 Cpl Philip J Cassidy, 36414216, Gunner, turret  
 Pvt Michael H Andrusenki, 36764070, Loader, turret  
 Pvt Joseph A Cellini, 33476133, Asst Driver, Radio



Destroyer No 1

Time and date of action: 191730 December 1944

20 Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		1	150	HE
			1	150	APC
			2	150	BDF

Effect of individual rounds unknown: gunner was firing at the searchlight flashed from the tank. Total effect: Burned. Tank was firing, target unknown. After this action the destroyer pulled to a cover position.

Gun crew and their positions:

Sgt Stanley F Campbell, 36552664, Gun Commander, turret  
 Cpl Allen A Waronen, 31885144, Gunner, turret  
 Tec 5 Edward M Carey, 32058618, Driver, drivers compart  
 Pvt Gerald L Kelly, 36414094, Radio  
 Pvt Joseph A Sonn, 31017702, Loader, turret

21 Destroyer No 3

Time and date of action: 181330 December 1944

21 Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		4	200	APC

4 rounds APC penetrated rear and set tank on fire. Effect of individual rounds unknown. Total effect: Burned. Tank was not firing. After action the destroyer moved to a cover position.

Gun crew and their positions:

S/Sgt Isaac L Wood, 20235836, Gun Commander, turret  
 Tec 4 Carl A Lake, 38110719, Driver, drivers compartment  
 Cpl James D McCord, 33418338, gunner, turret  
 Pvt David A Gibson, 33476102, Asst Driver, Radio.

Reconnaissance Company, Bazooka Team

Time and date of action: 180945 December 1944

22 Destroyed

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Northeast	15	2	70	

1st round ricocheted. 2d round penetrated rear and set tank on fire. Total effect: Burned. Tank was not firing. Bazooka team moved to cover positions:

23 Disabled

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIRECTION MOVING</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>NO RDS</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>TYPE AMMO</u>
Mark V	Stationary		1	40	

S E C R E T

**S E C R E T**

1st round blew track off. Total effect: Disabled temporarily. Tank was not firing. Bazooka team moved back to cover position.

Bazooka team:  
1st Lt ROBERT A PARKER, 01823478, Ex O, Rcn Co  
Pvt John J Cullinane, 32184556, Driver.

\* Encircled numbers refer to vehicles on overlay correspondingly numbered.

NOTE: Destroyers are plotted only in cases where they were in position from which they actually destroyed tanks. No effort has been made to indicate their maneuvers or to indicate locations of destroyers that destroyed no enemy armored vehicles

**III S U M M A R Y**

Total rounds fired:

<u>HE</u>	<u>BDF</u>	<u>APC</u>	<u>HVAP</u>	<u>ROCKET, AT</u>
5	61	10	6	3

Vehicles destroyed

<u>Mark V</u>	<u>Mark IV</u>	<u>TD SP</u>	<u>Half-track</u>
15	2	2	1

Vehicles disabled:

Mark V  
3

Destroyers Lost: 2 (these two destroyers were damaged beyond recovery capabilities.)

for the Commanding Officer:



OFFICIAL:

*Edward R Garton*  
EDWARD R GARTON  
Major, FA  
Adjutant

EDWARD R GARTON  
Major, FA  
Adjutant

2 Incls:  
Incl No 1 - Overlay No 1  
Incl No 2 - Overlay No 2

HQ. 5th T.D. GP.	
CIRCULATION	
CO. L. ED.	✓
EX.	✓
S-3	✓
S-2	✓
S-4	✓
ASST. S. ADJ.	✓
ASST. S. 4	✓
OST. O.	✓
HQ. Co.	✓
CO. EX.	✓
CHPNS.	✓
FILE S-3 Battle Experience	✓