

UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION.

JANUARY 1944

a. Original Unit.

- (1) Designation:
603 TD BN
- (2) Date of organization:
Dec. 15, 1941
- (3) Place of organization:
FT LEWIS, WASHINGTON
- (4) Authority for organization:
WDAGO, file AG 320.2 (11-17-41) MR-M-C,
Subject: "Organization of TD BN",
dated Dec. 3, 1941, and Dec. 15, SO 243,
Hq 3rd INF DIV dated Dec. 15, 1941.
- (5) Source from which personnel was obtained:
EM from AT platoons of field artillery battalions
of 3rd INF DIV.

b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit,
due to change of Table of Organization:
No change.

c. Strength commissioned and enlisted:

- (1) At beginning of period: January 1944
Officers: 52 0 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 648
- (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: 0
Enlisted Men: 1 EM trfd fr SCU 1112, Ft Devens, Mass
- (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: 1 - 2nd Lt trfd to 784th Tk Bn Cp HOOD,
TEXAS.
Enlisted Men: 4 - 1 trfd to Air Corps; 2 disch CDD;
1 disch Sect VIII AR 615-360.
- (4) At end of period.
Officers: 51 0 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 645

d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof.
CAMP HOOD, TEXAS.

e. Marches:
None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished
themselves in action:
None.

k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events:
None.

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UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION.

FEBRUARY 1944

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY.

b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit, due to change of Table of Organization:
No change.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 51 0 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 645

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: 4 - 2nd Lts asgd fr TD RTC
CAMP HOOD, TEXAS.
Enlisted Men: 0

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: 1 - 1st Lt trfd to 656 TD Bn Cp Hood;
1 - 1st Lt and 4 - 2nd Lts asgd to
TD RTC Cp Hood, Texas.
Enlisted Men: 7 trfd to prcht Sch;
1 trfd to Air Corps;
1 trfd Tng Brig Cp Hood
1 AWOL to desertion.

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 49 0 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 635

d. Stations (permanent) of unit or parts thereof.

(1) Date of arrival at each station:

CAMP MAXEY - 12 February 1944.

(2) Date of departure from each station:

CAMP HOOD - 12 February 1944.

(3) Authority: Ltr Hq AGF 370.5/104 (TD Units) (R) (18 Feb 44)
GNGCT, dtd 10 Feb 1944,
Subject: "Transfer of Certain Tank Destroyer Units",
the 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion WP o/a
12 Feb 44 fr pres perm sta at Cp Hood, Texas to new
sta at Cp Maxey, Texas. Movement Orders No. 19,
Hq TDC Cp Hood, Texas, dtd 10 Feb 44.

e. Marches:

None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

None.

k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events:

None.

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UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION.

MARCH 1944

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY.

b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit, due to change of Table of Organization:

No change.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 49 0 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 635

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: 2

1 Capt. fr 75th Inf.Div. Camp Polk, La.

1 1st Lt. fr 32 Cav. Rcn. Sqd. Mecz. Camp Maxey, Texas.

Enlisted Men: 36

9 EM fr 665th T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

9 EM fr 664th T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

1 EM fr 541st Parashute Inf. Camp McCall, North Carolina

1 EM fr Air Corps unasgd. Armed Forces Ind. Station Dallas, Texas.

2 EM fr 704th T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

3 EM fr 20th T.D. Group Camp Maxey, Texas.

1 EM fr Des. Camp Hood, Texas.

9 EM fr 667th T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

1 EM fr Parashute School ABC Fort Benning, Georgia.

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: 16

1 Capt. to 140th Q.M. Bn. Camp McCain, Miss.

1 Capt. to 75th Inf. Div. Camp Polk, La.

1 Capt. to 32 Cav. Rcn. Sqd. Mesz. Camp Maxey, Texas.

1 1st. Lt. to Officers Repl. Pool T.D.R.T.C.

Camp Hood, Texas.

1 1st Lt. to 99th Inf. Div. Camp Maxey, Texas.

1 1st Lt. to 20th T.D. Group Camp Hood, Texas.

3 2nd Lts. to 664th T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

4 2nd Lts. to 665th T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

3 2nd Lts. to 663rd T.D. Bn. Camp Hood, Texas.

Enlisted Men: 35

2 EM Detached patients Sta. Hosp. Camp Maxey, Texas.

1 EM to Southern Personnel Repl. center Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

21 EM to 633rd T.D. Bn. Camp Maxey, Texas.

1 EM to 480th Amb. Med. Co. Camp Maxey, Texas.

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 35 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 636

d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof.

(1) Date of arrival at each station:

Camp Kilmer, New Jersey - 29 March 1944. All units.

(2) Date of departure from each station:

Camp Maxey, Texas - 26 March 1944,

Companies "A", "B", Rcn., and Med. Det.; 27 March
Hq., Hq.Co., + "C" Co

(3) Authority:

M.O. No. 25, Headquarters XXIII Corps Brownwood, Texas;
dated 17 March 1944.

e., j., k: No change.

UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1944

- a. Original Unit
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit,
due to change of Table of Organization.
No change.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 35 O - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 636
 - (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 18 N.Y.P.E. Repl. Pool, CAMP KILMER,
NEW JERSEY.
 - (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: 1 1st Lt. John J. Whoriskey, died
aboard ship enroute to England 13 April 44
Enlisted Men: 17 - 15 EM to Adj.Gen., (AWOL)
2 EM to N.Y.P.E. Pool, CAMP KILMER,
NEW JERSEY.
 - (4) At end of period:
Officers: 34 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 637
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof.
- (1) Date of arrival at each station:
CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE ENGLAND,
18 April 1944, APO 340.
 - (2) Date of departure from each station:
CAMP KILMER, NEW JERSEY, 8 April 1944.
 - (3) Authority:
Verbal Order Commanding Officer, NEW YORK Port of
Embarkation.
- e. Marches:
The 603rd T.D. Bn. entrained at 0750, 8 April, 1944,
at CAMP KILMER, NEW JERSEY for Pier 90, North River.
Arrived 1030, 8 April, 1944. Battalion boarded H.M.S.
Queen Mary. Sailed for England 0730, 10 April. Crossing
smooth. Arrived FIRTH of CLYDE, SCOTLAND, 2000, 16 April,
1944. Entrained Firth of Clyde 1300, 17 April for CANNOCK,
STAFFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND. Arrived CANNOCK 0110, 18 April 44.
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves
in action:
None.
- k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.
None.

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UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

MAY 1944 ✓

- a. Original Unit:
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit,
due to change of Table of Organization:
No change.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 34 O - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 637
 - (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: 1 Capt. fr 103 Med. Bn. APO 28
Enlisted Men: 1 fr 17th Repl Depot ETOUSA APO 873
 - (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 6
2 EM trfd to Det of Pnts, 52nd Gen. Hosp. APO 651 US ARMY
2 EM trfd to Det of Pnts, 327th Sta Hosp. APO 135 "
1 EM trfd to Det of Pnts, 4154 Hosp. Plant, APO 124 "
1 EM trfd to Det of Pnts, 4153 Hosp. Plant, APO 871 "
 - (4) At end of period:
Officers: 35 O - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 632
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof.
- (1) Date of arrival at each station:
Sherborne, Gloucester, STAFFORDSHIRE - 2 May 1944 at 1400.
 - (2) Date of departure from each station:
CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE - 2 May, 1944 at 1000.
 - (3) Authority:
VOCG, 6th Armd'd Division.
- e. Marches:
None.
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves
in action.
- k. Photographs of personnel important scenes or events.
None.

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UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

JUNE 1944

- a. Original Unit:
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit,
due to change of Table of Organization.
No change.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 35 0 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 632
 - (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: None.
Enlisted Men: None.
 - (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 4 - 2 EM trfd to Det Pnts 4154 US Army
APO 124,
1 EM trfd to D.T.C. 3, APO 152 US Army
1 EM trfd to Det Pnts 50th Gen Hosp. APO
506, US Army
 - (4) At end of period:
Officers: 35 0 - 1 WO.
Enlisted Men: 628
- e. Marches:
None.
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves
in action.
None.
- k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.
None.

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UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

JULY 1944

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY

b. Changes in organization, change in the designation of Unit,
due to change of Table of Organization.

No change.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 35 0 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 628

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: None

Enlisted Men: None

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: 1

1 O trfd. to Hq FUSA, APO 230, US Army.

Enlisted Men: 19

1 FM trfd. to Annex 11 Disciplinary Trng Center,
APO 2912, US Army

2 EM trfd to 327th Sta Hosp, APO, 124, US Army

13 EM trfd to 18th Repl Depot, APO 872, US Army

3 EM dropped fragmt, Per Sec II, Cir 69, ETOUSA,
13 June 1944.

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 34 0 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 609

d-h Stations, campaigns, battles:

The 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion left Sherborne Gloucestershire, England, 16 July for a short overseas movement to France. Arrived at Marshalling Area B-4 1650 same day. Departed from Area B-4 0845, 17 July and arrived at Southampton 1215. Companies moved across Channel as units landing on Utah Beach July 21 and 22. The Battalion closed into bivouac near Bonneville, France and prepared for combat 23 to 27 July. The Division received its first orders, to capture Granville. Company A, Company B, and Reconnaissance Company were attached to Combat Command A, Company C to Combat Command B, Battalion (-) to Reserve Command.

July

28 Company A, Company B, and Reconnaissance Company with Combat Command A crossed AY River and advanced to Le Bingard. 26 miles.

29 Combat Command A units advanced to Seine River near Font de la Roche and attacked the high ground to the south gaining a bridgehead, Company C moved to Coutances. 9 miles.

30 Combat Command B with Company C passed over the bridgehead, captured Brehal, and moved south to Breville. 13 miles.

31 Combat Command B advanced to areas astride the Granville-Avranches road. Combat Command A advanced to area north of the Granville-Avranches road. 16 miles.

During this period the tank destroyers operated as platoon units supporting elements of the advance guard, main body, and rear guard guarding against armored threats. Secondary missions of knocking out OP's and strong points were also performed.

- i. Losses in action; officers and men:
None.

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UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AUGUST 1944 ✓

- a. Original Unit:
See JANUARY
- b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.
No change.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 34 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 609
- (2) Net decrease each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: 8
- (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: None
- (4) At end of period:
Officers: 34 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 617

d-e Stations and marches:

August

- | | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 1 | ET. Cntot to Autrain |
| 2 | Autrain to Quedillac |
| 3 | Quedillac to La Baussaine |
| 4 | La Baussaine to Poullaouen |
| 6-7 | Poullaouen to Serignac |
| 8 | Serignac to Gouesnou |
| 9 | Gouesnou to Bourg Blanc |
| 13 | Bourg Blanc to Gourin |
| 15 | Gourin to Arzano |

> A, B, C and Reconnaissance Companies were split up with different Combat Commands. Within the Combat Commands the gun companies were further split up with different task forces, thus a myriad of routes were taken in the march to Brest. Also from time to time platoons or companies moved out to meet reported tank threats. However the above route was taken by Battalion Headquarters and was the general axis of advance of all units.

f-g Campaigns and battles:

The Sixth Armored Division received orders to seize Pontorson and Dinan. Dinan found to be strongly defended, was by-passed when new orders came down to advance on Brest. Brushing aside all light resistance and by-passing heavier resistance the Division liberated the Brest Peninsula by the 9th of August destroying, disorganizing, or bottling up 60,000 troops. On 12th of August Combat Command B moved to Vannes and Reserve Command to Lorient to relieve 4th Armored Division troops.

Combat Command A remained at Brest. On 14th Combat Command B moved to Lorient to hold the German forces within the town. On 29th Combat Command B began a move E to clean up the north bank of the Loire River from Nantes to Orleans.

August

A Company.

- 1-6 A Company was attached to Combat Command A. Near Mauron Company A knocked out several OP's and near Kermelec silenced enemy machine gun fire and mortar fire with HE.
- 1-13 Near Plabennec the Combat Commands column was split by flank fire. One destroyer moved forward and neutralized the enemy gun position. One German truck and motorcycle were also destroyed here.
- 13-20 While in reserve near Reralien six destroyers went out on an offensive mission and destroyed two 150 mm guns, damaged one, and destroyed two concrete emplacements.
- 21-31 On 21st of August A Company was attached to VIII Corps which took over the offensive actions against Brest. During this period the Company supported the 83 Division with indirect fire. A total of 100 rounds HE were fired indirect.

B Company.

- 1-15 B Company was attached to Reserve Commands. Elements of the Company were used to protect Division and Reserve Command trains and as anti-armor elements of march units in the move to Brest. Near Kerdalaes a heavy weapons platoon was encountered; 3 enemy were killed and taken prisoners. Second platoon assisted in Company moved to vicinity of Arzano and remained in reserve.
- 15-31 Third platoon formed part of a small force sent to capture Concarneau. Direct fire was placed on the town and 1 - 20 mm flak boat was destroyed. 180 rounds were fired indirect on gun position and fortifications at Concarneau.

C Company.

- 1-7 C Company was attached to Combat Command B. Elements of company were used in the advance guard, main body, and rear guard to ward off armored attacks. At Avranches the company was strafed by several enemy aircraft and again in bivouac near Becherel. At Lesneven the third platoon in advance guard fired 52 rounds 76 mm HE under heavy mortar and sniper fire; OP's and machine gun nests were destroyed. At Avignac the first platoon was attacked on an outpost by foot troops; the enemy was dispersed with seven killed.
- 8-15 At Gouesnou the first and third platoons participated in a rear guard action against foot troops as the Command withdrew from Brest; 1 EM killed. The company moved into a bivouac area near Arzano.
- 16 One platoon helped effect the surrender of 99 prisoners at Concarneau. The town was shelled by tank destroyers, 2 artillery pieces and 2 AT guns being destroyed.

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Reconnaissance Company.

August

Due to the fact the Battalion did not operate as a unit, Reconnaissance Company never had the opportunity to serve in the role trained in. Thus it was that the company acted as reconnaissance for the Division on the drive to Brest. On August 1st Reconnaissance Company led Combat Command A in its march toward Avranches. Near Antrain a sharp encounter was had with a German patrol. The patrol was driven off with several casualties. At the outskirts of Broons a roadblock was encountered and destroyed. The column moved on south through Pontivy to Gourin. Another roadblock held the company up here until morning. Proceeding on, the company cleared out the opposition met in Poullaouen. Just beyond Poullaouen another roadblock, machine gun, was destroyed. Just short of Huelgoat another patrol attacked the bivouac area and was driven off with a loss of one officer and several enlisted men killed. On August 10th the first platoon proceeded to Lanillus where 125 soldiers surrendered upon being given an ultimatum by two members of the platoon. The next day elements of the company were busy rounding up prisoners in the general area, capturing over 200. In all Reconnaissance Company took over 500 prisoners in the Brest campaign by negotiations or battle. At one point the Germans were forced from their coastal defences and had to destroy 3 - 8 coastal guns, in concrete emplacements. At another point 5 - 75 mm field pieces with crews were over-run and destroyed. 1 half-track and 2 staff cars were destroyed and approximately 100 soldiers killed or wounded by Reconnaissance Company in its dash to Brest. Leaving Brest on the 13th Reconnaissance Company led the Command to Lorient. During the remainder of the month the company carried on active patrols each day into enemy territory before Lorient.

Battalion Headquarters.

August

Considerable enemy fire was received at Gouesnou. Lt. Col. John G. Minniece was severely wounded in action. Major Clarence D. McCurry assumed command.

Enemy casualties were:

- 2 AT guns
- 1 Arty gun
- 4 AA guns
- 4 Pillboxes
- 1 AA Flak-boat
- 1 Gun emplacement
- 948 Prisoners

1. Losses in action, officers and men.

Officers:

- Lt. Col. John G. Minniece jr , 017532, CAV, DOW, 18 Aug 44
- Capt. Ralph B. Damon, 0378428, FA, SWA, 7 Aug 44, 107 Evac. Hosp.
- 1st Lt. Wilmer S. Barlow, 0306098, FA, LWA, 11 Aug 44, 107 Evac Hosp.
- 2nd Lt. Charles W. Putnam jr., 01824229, AUS, LWA, 8 Aug. 44, 108 Evac Hosp.:

Enlisted Men:

T sgt George J. Rako, 37020490, LWA, 104 Evac Hosp,
6 Aug 44.
Pvt Robert Allen, 18043470, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp, 8 Aug 44.
Cpl Charles J. Ablan, 37020569, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp,
8 Aug 44.
Pvt John F. Holland, 31135199, LWA, 8 Aug 44.
Cpl Albert B. Klingler, 35114028, LWA, 8 Aug 44,
108 Evac Hosp.
Sgt Gerald J. Amos, 6583032, SWA, 8 Aug 44.
Pfc James N. Hall, 37020626, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp, 8 Aug 44.
Pvt Chester J. Reasoner, 6933572, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp,
8 Aug 44.
Pvt Samuel W. Archer, 35549842, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp,
8 Aug 44.
Pvt Ernest J. Galles, 16000419, SWA, 53d Field Hosp,
8 Aug 44.
Pvt Clarence E. Paul, 19075425, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp,
8 Aug 44.
Pfc Orphie M. Miller, 37125817, SWA, 8 Aug 44.
Pfc Albert J. Beauregard, 34209417, SWA, 28 Aug 44.
Pvt Harold W. May, 36038650, LWA, 32d Evac Hosp.
9 Aug 44.
Pvt Glenn H. Ankrum, 19011088, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp,
9 Aug 44.
Pvt Willis C. Johnson, 34535889, LWA, 32d Evac Hosp,
9 Aug 44.
- Cpl Paul T. Wise, 37157569, SWA, 9 Aug 44.
Pfc William J. Large, 13079144, LWA, 9 Aug 44.
Tec 5 Harvey L. Margetts, 39681764, LWA, 35 Evac Hosp,
6 Aug 44.
Pvt Ira F. Purser, 6574983, LWA, 104 Evac Hosp, 6 Aug 44.
Pvt Clarence M. Smith, 6591327, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp,
8 Aug 44.
Pfc Raymond King, 37020622, LWA, 108 Evac Hosp, 8 Aug 44.
Pvt Edgar R. Holland, 20608074, LWA, 5 Aug 44.

Killed in action:

Tec 4 Frank J. Prewett, 3715935, 8 Aug 44.
Sgt John C. Golden, 6578221, 20 Aug 44.
Sgt Robert E. Shepard, 37009586, 8 Aug 44.
Pvt Quincy H. Long jr, 35634329, 8 Aug 44
Pfc Thomas W. Lawson, 39387266, 1 Aug 44
Tec 5 Grady C. Alexander, 34121565, 9 Aug 44

Missing in action:

Sgt Donald C. Hutchinson, 37249475;
Pvt Gerald P. Crittenden
Tec 4 Peter L. Woltman, 37020011
Tec 5 Robert R. Giles, 3453102
Pfc Lawrence R. Denney, 37197586
Pvt Jack P. Nuccio, 36355161
Pvt Samuel M. Matathia, 31068740
Pvt Peter Curione, 6933793
Pvt Joe W. Waller, 37067691, 7 Aug 44
Tec 3 Elmer C. Sanders, 38021748
Cpl Garlan W. Rains, 19000661, 6 Aug 44
Tec 4 George L. Rude, 16020003, 8 Aug 44

CONFIDENTIAL

UNIT HISTORY - 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

SEPTEMBER 1944

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY

b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

- (1) At beginning of period:
Officers: 34 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 617
- (2) Net increase each month:
Officers: None
Enlisted Men: None
- (3) Net decrease each month:
Officers: 2
Enlisted Men: 32
- (4) At end of period:
Officers: 32 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 585

d-e Stations and marches:

September

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 12 | Arzano to Kerroaul |
| 13 | Kerroaul to La Fleche |
| 14 | La Fleche to Lorris |
| 19 | Lorris to Colombey-les-Belles |
| 22 | Colombey-les-Belles to Pettoncourt |
| 23 | Pettoncourt to Gremecey |
| 26 | Gremecey to Donmartemont |

This again represents the route of Battalion Headquarters but is in general the axis of advance for all units.

f-g Campaigns and battles:

September

During the initial weeks of September the Division continued its vigilance and harassing actions before Lorient. Combat Command C took over an area along the north bank of the Loire River from Orleans west, guarding the Third Army's southern flank. Combat Command B relieved elements of the Fourth Armored Division at Luneville and took up defensive positions. The Division then moved north to Gremecey Forest and attacked southwest toward Amance Hill. In hard fought battles the land between Gremecey Forest and Agincourt was cleared of the enemy. The end of the month saw the Division holding a defensive line from Moirvon east with reserve forces doing maintenance.

A Company

- 1-10 A Company was still being used in indirect fire missions at Brest. Used to draw counter battery from big guns around Brest for location of these batteries. Also used for harassing fire into Brest. Destroyers were also used to fire direct on targets of opportunity, gun positions, and concrete emplacements. 103 rounds were fired direct and 1416 rounds indirect.

- 11-21 Company A was released at Brest and reverted to Battalion control at Lorris. Units moved to an

assembly area NE of Neuf Chateau.

- 21-25 Company A was attached to Combat Command A in the attack south from Gremercy Forest. Against very heavy artillery and mortar opposition the high ground around Jallancourt, Lemoncourt, and Fossieux were taken.
- 26-30 At Fossieux one platoon lost all its vehicles to an attack by infantry and tanks supported by artillery. The platoon members reformed, dismounted, and retook the town holding it until our infantry reentered. One M4 IV tank was knocked out. All TD equipment was regained; 1 destroyer and 2 1/4 ton vehicles were lost in the fight.

September

B Company

- 1-15 One platoon was on line holding the high ground east of Hennebont. A German barracks west of Hennebont was destroyed.
- 23-25 The Company was attached to Combat Command B of the 4th Armored Division and held positions near Fresnes-en-Saulnois.

September

C Company

- 3-12 From a bivouac area near Lorris C Company reconnoitered routes to and firing positions along the north bank of the Loire River from Orleans to 30 miles east of Orleans.
- 18-20 All platoons went into the line at the southeast edge of Luneville. Heavy mortar and artillery fire and light small arms fire were encountered.
- 21-30 C Company attacked south from Gremercy Forest with Combat Command B with Amance Hill as the objective. Heavy resistance was met in Armaucourt. The third platoon shelled and destroyed the town and one ammunition dump. The third platoon took 150 prisoners from Armaucourt. The first platoon was attached to the 86th Reconnaissance Squadron with the mission of protecting the right flank of the Division and cutting the escape route from LeYr north. Five vehicles, five horse drawn vehicles, and seven machine guns were destroyed near Arroye-et-Han and 15 prisoners taken near Armaucourt. A large concentration of disorganized troops in a small wood near Arroye-et-Han was shelled by the first platoon. Some 150 soldiers were later reported killed or wounded there. The second platoon supported the assault taking LeYr. An attack on Moivron was repulsed by heavy mortar and artillery fire. One platoon remained in defensive position before Moivron.

September

Reconnaissance Company

- During the month of September Reconnaissance Company went on reconnaissance missions, sent out patrols, and supported TD companies against ground troops.
- 1-12 Patrols were sent out from the company area near Orleans. Outposts were maintained in the towns of Touhy, St. Martin, and St. Fargeau.
- 13-18 The company continued to reconnoiter and led the Command to Nancy.

September

19-30

Reconnaissance Company moved to Cremencey Forest and shoved off as flank guard for the Command. 2 horse drawn vehicles and 3 wheeled vehicles were destroyed, 12 soldiers killed and 19 taken prisoners. Outposts and patrols were maintained in the vicinity of Leyr and Armaucourt. On the 25th a heavy counterattack at Leyr was repulsed with 30 enemy killed, 20 wounded, and 29 captured.

Enemy casualties were:

- 1 MK IV tank
- 10 Machine guns
- 1 Pillbox
- 4 Motor vehicles
- 17 Houses
- 10 HD vehicles
- 26 Prisoners

i. Losses in action; officers and men:

Officers:

1st Lt. Wendell T. Hegg, 01169999, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
24 Sep 44.

Enlisted Men:

Tec 4 Osborn H. Johnson, 16010662, LWA, 106th Evac Hosp,
19 Sep 44

Pvt George F. Wolf, 36350437, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
26 Sep 44.

Cpl John B. Colmone, 36060121, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
26 Sep 44

Cpl Anton H. Matzen, 37127547, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
26 Sep 44

Sgt Paul J. Thiner, 37120832, LWA, 101 Evac Hosp.
26 Sep 44

Cpl Albert R. Klingler, 35114028, LWA, 101 Evac Hosp,
26 Sep 44

Tec 5 William H. Althoff, 6594448, LIA, 110th Med Bn,
26 Sep 44

Pvt James W. Nichols, 18084855, LWA, 16 Sep 44

Pvt Mickey Bosler, 39386788, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp,
22 Sep 44

Cpl August V. Widhalm, 38083373, LWA, 106th Evac Hosp,
24 Sep 44

Tec 5 Clarence Hirt, 39006083, LWA, 106th Evac Hosp,
23 Sep 44

Pfc Herman R. Hooks, 38073813, SWA, 106th Evac Hosp,
19 Sep 44

Tec 5 August D. Griffin, 31110100, LWA, 106th Evac Hosp,
19 Sep 44

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.

Silver Stars were awarded to the following for gallantry in action per General Order 20, Headquarters 6th Armored Division, 17 August 1944:

Captain Allan B. R. SCULLEN, Reconnaissance Company. For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Under a steady artillery and mortar concentration, and trapped by burning vehicles, he rallied his command of one hundred men from advance guard units and went forward to reorganize positions against the enemy.

First Lieutenant Eric H. JAGER, Reconnaissance Company
For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Flabennee,
France on 7 August 1944. While under a heavy concentration
of artillery fire and surrounded with burning vehicles
and ammunition, he put out fires in numerous vehicles.
His initiative and bravery resulted in the saving of
numerous vehicles and probably the lives of personnel.

UNIT - HISTORY 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

OCTOBER 1944

a. Original unit:

See JANUARY

b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 32 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 585

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: 4

Enlisted Men: 26

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: None

Enlisted Men: None

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 36 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 611

d-e Stations and Marches:

Throughout the month of October Battalion Headquarters was located in billets in Donmartement. The companies occupied billets in the same town, periodically, moving out on security missions, attack missions, and to indirect firing positions from their billets.

f-g Campaigns and Battles:

At the beginning of the month the Division was in the general area around Nancy with various units holding a line between the 35th and 80th Divisions from LeYr to Gremecey. Combat Command A and Reserve Command made limited objective attacks east and north of Gremecey Forest to gain high ground and straighten out defenses. On the 8th and 9th Combat Command B and Combat Command A made an attack north from LeYr seizing a number of towns and the high ground to Letricourt. The 35th and 80th Division pushed off simultaneously consolidating all gains. The latter half of the month was spent with most units in billets around Nancy. Units were on alert for an immediate counter-attack at any point where the enemy attacked.

October

A Company

1

Company A - 1 platoon pushed east with Reserve Command south of Gremecey Forest to take the high ground north of Chambray. Heavy mortar and artillery fire were met in this attack. The second platoon supported the 15th Tank Battalion in taking the high ground between Jallancourt and Malincourt. One 88 mm anti-tank gun was destroyed. Two platoons supported Combat Command A in the attack north of Jeandelincourt. Two machine guns were knocked out before Chenicourt.

10

11-17

The Company remained near Bouxieres on an alert status for counterattacking any enemy attack.

18-31

A Company was in billets in Donmartement on a one hour alert status.

Oktober

B Company

- 1 Company B was attached to Combat Command A and supported the attack north of Gremecey Forest to the objective, Lemoncourt to Fresnes.
- 8 -9 Company B supported Combat Command B in the attack on Chenicourt.
- 18-30 The Company occupied indirect firing positions near Armancourt. Approximately 800 rounds HE were fired on harassing missions in support of Division Artillery.

Oktober

C Company

- 1-7 One platoon of C Company remained in a defensive position facing Moivron. Intermittent artillery fire was the only enemy activity met here.
- 8-9 Company C supported Combat Command B in its attack north from Leyr. One platoon flanked Jeandelincourt and assaulted the town with direct fire. One anti-tank gun was destroyed and approximately 100 prisoners taken. One platoon supported the assault on Moivron. The first platoon protected the task forces right flank and later participated in the assault on Chenicourt.
- 19-30 → Company C occupied indirect firing position near Armancourt. Approximately 800 rounds HE were expended in firing nightly harassing missions.

Oktober

Reconnaissance Company

- 1 One platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to Company B and supported their attack north of Gremecey Forest. Another platoon supported Company A in the attack north of Chambray.
- 8-9 One platoon was attached to each of the gun companies in the drive north from Leyr and Armancourt to Letricourt.

i. Losses in action, officers and men:

Officers:

1st Lt. Gabriel J. Halperin, 01822395, KIA, 10 Oct 44

Enlisted Men:

Tec 4 Wayne R. Reetz, 37195400, LWA, 12 Evac.Hosp., 10 Oct 44

Pvt Paul E. Little, 38086565, LWA, 106 Evac Hosp, 1 Oct 44

Tec 5 August F. Schultz, 12088474, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 1 Oct 44

Tec 5 August F. Schultz, 12088474, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 1 Oct 44

Cpl Frank R. Stockman, 32308546, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 1 Oct 44

Pfc Charles L. Drain, 37205340, SWA, Hosp, 1 Oct 44

Pfc Robert D. Cochran, 33437292, LIA, 27 Sep 44

Sgt Shadie F. Jacobs, 19015076, SWA, 106 Evac Hosp, 27 Sep 44

Sgt Jake Weber, 19067797, SWA, 27 Sep 44

Pvt Edward J. Christopher, 6562775, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp, 8 Oct 44

Pvt Raymond V. Leyden, 33583756, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp, 8 Oct 44

Sgt Arlie McGracken, 39165516, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp, 9 Oct 44

Sgt Orrin F. Cooley jr., 39231287, KIA, 1 Oct 44

Sgt Ralph H. Fieldman, 36337431, KIA, 1 Oct 44

Pvt George Norian, 42002831, KIA, 1 Oct 44

Pfc Samuel Aguirre, 39031409, KIA, 27 Sep 44

Tec 5 Willard C. Kreidler, 1704611, KIA, 8 Oct 44

Missing in action:

Pvt Glenn L. Perrin, 37704084, MIA, 6 Oct 44

Enemy casualties were:

1 AT Gun
2 ArtY guns
2 MG
105 Prisoners

UNIT - HISTORY 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

NOVEMBER 1944

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY

b. Changes in organization, changes in designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.

No change

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 36 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 611

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: 1

Enlisted Men: 4

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: None

Enlisted Men: None

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 37 - 1 WO

Enlisted Men: 615

d-g Stations, Marches, Campaigns, Battles:

★ During the month of November the Sixth Armored Division saw its hardest fighting to date. The Division battered its way across the Seille River, the Nied Francaise, and up to the Saar River. Tanks, AT guns, minefields, AT ditches, heavy artillery, large mortar concentrations, and the rainiest season in 29 Years were used to maximum advantage in the enemy's strong delaying action. The Division pushed off by jumping the Seille River at Pont-sur-Seille and at Worny passing through the 80th Division's bridgehead. The Division advanced to the Nied-Francaise River; Combat Command A capturing Luppy, Bechy, Secourt, Thimonville; Combat Command B capturing Buchy. Combat Command A gained a bridgehead at Han-sur-Nied against very fierce opposition. Combat Command B after three tries won another hard bridgehead at Sanry. Combat Command A moved on northeast capturing Vatinont, Holacourt, Herny, ManY, and Thicourt. Arraincourt and Boulange fell next. On the 14th Landroff was captured and held against vicious counterattacks by infantry supported by tanks. Elements of the Command pushed on through Chemery, Adelange, Boustroff, and Eincheville. Combat Command B captured Voimhaut and Vittoncourt, passed, and then shoved out to Bertring. From Bertring the advance continued through Gros-Tenguin and Hellimer. Shooting north from Hellimer elements skirted strong opposition to pass through Leyviller and capture St. Jean Rohrbach. The Combat Command fought north and east to seize Laning, Lixing, Maxstadt, Volette, and Cappel. Combat Command B pushed east and south to take Hilsprich, Remering, Diderfing and Hirbach. At the end of the period the Division was holding a line before the Saar River extending north and south from Battelange.

A Company

November

1-7

Company A fired nightly harassing missions from indirect firing positions near Armaucourt.

8-11

The Company was attached to Reserve Command which followed the other two Commands ready to support operations.

12-13 The first platoon was attached to Combat Command A. In the attack on HERNY two M-18's were lost. Two half-track flak carriers, one 88 mm AT gun, and two machine guns were destroyed. One M-18 continued to fire after three feet of the muzzle had been blown off.

14 The second platoon entered Lardroff to support a small force in the town. German counter-attacks continuing throughout the night were beaten off. One Mk IV and one self-propelled gun were destroyed in the fight.

15-19 Company A supported Combat Command A in the continued attacks east against Suisse, Boustroff, Chemery, Adelange, Eincheville, and Villers. Two 88 mm AT guns, six machine guns, and two pill boxes were destroyed in this advance.

20-23 One platoon supported Combat Command B in its advance east. One 75 mm AT gun, 3 MK IV tanks, and 1 MK VI tank were destroyed at Hellimer.

24-25 The second platoon continued to support the attack NE from St. Jean Rohrbach. One 88 mm AT gun and one armored car were knocked out.

26-28 Company A supported TF Brown in the attack from Hilsprich toward Steinbach. Impassable terrain brought this attack to a halt.

B Company

9-12 Two platoons of B Company were attached to Combat Command A; remainder of the Company was attached to Reserve Command. In slugging their way from Buchy to Han-sur-Nied Task Force Stablein was greatly aided by the first platoon's toll of enemy materiel; 3 Mk VI tanks, 7 Mk IV tanks, 1 Mk III tank, 1 assault gun, 2 75 mm AT guns, 3 supply trucks, and 1 command car. Company B continued to aid in the attack through Han-sur-Nied, Vatinont, and Morville-sur-Nied.

13-15 Continuing east two platoons supported the drives on Arraincourt, Many, Suisse, Thicourt, and Thonville. Again at Thonville the enemy was hit for a loss of one Mk IV tank, three AT guns, and three pillboxes.

16-17 At Côte-de-Suisse the third platoon destroyed four machine guns and one truck and captured nineteen prisoners. B Company destroyers took part in the battles for Boustroff, Chemery, Adelange, Eincheville, and Villers.

24-25 The first platoon of B Company supported the attack on Hilsprich and Remering.

C Company

November 1-2 Company C continued its harassing fire from the vicinity of Arraincourt.

1-10 Company C was attached to Combat Command B for the rush east from Nancy. In fighting up to and through Buchy the company accounted for 13 prisoners, one Mk IV tank, two 150 mm rifles, two 88 mm AT guns, and one 75 mm pack howitzer.

11 Two platoons participated in the attack on Sanry-sur-Nied. Covering the river at Sanry, the (third platoon knocked out two wheeled vehicles, 2 AT guns, and one ammunition dump)

The first platoon was assisting in taking Remilly during this action.

- 12-14 The advance continued through Bazencourt, Vaucremont, Voimhaut, and Vittoncourt against very heavy artillery fire from the north. One armored car was knocked out.
- 19-20 Two platoons moved forward with Combat Command B against strong opposition. East of Berig-Vintrage one pillbox was destroyed by the third platoon. Moving across country the platoon caught and destroyed two Mk V tanks. The destroyers proceeded to high ground and destroyed another Mk V tank southeast of Berig-Vintrage. At Gros-Tenguin two more pillboxes, one ammunition truck, one half-track, one reconnaissance car, and three dug outs with soldiers fell to C Company's guns. Covering the third platoon, the second platoon knocked out one 88 mm AT gun and one blockhouse.
- 20-22 The first platoon supported the drive on through Hellimer to St. Jean Rohrbach. At Hellimer one Mk V was damaged. At Diffenbach-les Hellimer one destroyer engaged three Mk V tanks, damaged one, set fire to a second, and routed the third. With the flanking force which entered St. Jean Rohrbach the second platoon got one 57 mm AT gun and two tanks.
- 23-25 The company supported the push east from St. Jean to Puttelange. One destroyer was lost to direct fire before Puttelange.
- 26-30 C Company outposted the road into Puttelange and the towns of Hilsprich and Remering.

Enemy casualties were:

4 MK VI tanks
10 MK V tanks
15 MK IV tanks
1 MK III, 9 SP guns
20 AT guns
8 AA guns
20 MG
20 Pillboxes
5 Motor Vehicles
2 Half-tracks (AA)
9 Mortars
2 Armored Vehicles
59 Prisoners

(39)

i. Losses in action, officers and men:

Officers: 1st Lt. Charles E. Bevington, 0465083, KIA, 26 Nov 44
1 1st Lt. Joseph Talosi, 01168941, KIA, 12 Nov 44

Enlisted Men:

Cpl Harry C. Neustadt, 39844559, SWA, 11 Nov. 44 to DOW 11 Nov 44
Sgt Daniel Clark, 34535777, KIA, 12 Nov 44
Cpl Cyril M. Liscik, 33278028, KIA, 12 Nov 44
Sgt Leo Bush, 6562069, KIA, 16 Nov 44
Pvt Joe J. Wilkins, 19018654, KIA, 12 Nov 44
Sgt Joseph R. Smith, 32289417, KIA, 26 Nov 44
Sgt Clyde F. Weis, 19050639, KIA, 10 Nov. 44
Cpl Reginald V. Wood, 6832878, KIA, 25 Nov 44.

Battle casualties:

Officers:

- 1st Lt. James H. Scott jr, 0410980, LWA, 15 Nov 44
- 2nd Lt. Donald K. Hovey, 01826149, LIA, 12 Evac Hosp, 26 Nov 44
- 1st Lt. Ronald W. Swart, 01168487, 101th Evac Hosp, 15 Nov 44
- Capt John Savini, 0394474, LWA, 104th Evac Hosp, 20 Nov 44
- 1st Lt. Roy L. Boggs, LIA, 101st Evac Hosp, 15 Nov 44
- 2nd Lt. Philip A. Goduto, 01823589, LWA, 26 Nov 44

Enlisted Men:

- Tec 5 Leonhard F. Lulay, 39386853, SWA, 15 Nov 44
- Tec 5 Aloysius J. Lidy, 36396262, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 12 Nov 44
- Sgt Robert Hansen jr, 19112136, LIA, 305 Med Bn, 12 Nov 44
- Pfc Major L. Hazelwood, 35146619, SWA, 16 Field Hosp, 11 Nov 44
- Pvt Bruce A. Lindeen, 19071216, SWA, 16 Field Hosp, 11 Nov 44
- Cpl Andrew H. Andersen, 31137439, LWA, 11 Nov 44
- Tec 5 Anthony R. Fiorino, 33277963, LWA, 11 Nov 44
- Pfc Antonio Russo, 32269712, LWA, 101st Evac Hosp, 11 Nov 44
- Cpl Frank T. Brimm, 18039688, LWA, Air Strip Toul, 11 Nov 44
- Tec 4 Fred H. Kinsley, 39386756, LIA, 12 Nov 44
- Pfc William E. Enyard, 36060096, LWA, 104 Evac Hosp, 13 Nov 44
- Cpl Bruce D. Tyler, 36665847, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 15 Nov 44
- Pfc Dick Meade, 39386993, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 15 Nov 44
- Sgt Oswald J. Olson, 19019487, LWA, 16 Nov 44
- Pvt Carl B. Carmichael, 35313482, LIA, 23 Nov 44
- Tec 4 Robert M. Wheeler, 19074457, SWA, 16 Field Hosp, 25 Nov 44
- Sgt Francis J. Johannack, 37019898, LWA, 39 Evac Hosp, 25 Nov 44
- Pvt Arthur E. Maurer, 650502, LIA, 104 Evac Hosp, 26 Nov 44
- Tec 4 Francis J. Kangas, 39311421, LWA, 12 Evac Hosp, 26 Nov 44
- Pfc George F. Lucero, 38070147, LIA, 17 Nov 44
- Pvt Harold C. Slack, 33437323, LIA, 17 Nov 44
- Pfc John A. Glynn, 11091008, LWA, 19 Nov 44
- Pfc Ernest R. Kenyon, 11057898, LWA, 35th Evac Hosp, 10 Nov 44
- Cpl Hilary M. Obholz, 37151977, SWA, 35th Evac Hosp, 10 Nov 44
- Tec 4 Harold N. Proudfoot, 35019702, LWA, 34 Evac Hosp, 11 Nov 44
- Pvt Clayton E. Langland, 37280719, SWA, 104 Evac Hosp, 13 Nov 44
- Cpl Stash M. Tytanic, 30086973, LWA, 34 Evac Hosp, 13 Nov 44
- Pvt Eugene J. Berens, 37702552, LWA, 12 Nov 44
- Pfc Walter T. Malone, 34535662, LWA, 101st Hosp, 19 Nov 44
- Pfc Zygmunt Kukulka, 36567145, LWA, 21 Nov 44
- Pvt Clifton T. Butler jr., 33732160, LWA, 15 Nov 44
- Pvt Marvin A. Landry, 34234930, LIA, 39 Evac Hosp, 30 Nov 44

UNIT HISTORY 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

DECEMBER ✓

a. Original Unit:

See JANUARY

b. Changes in organization, changes in designations of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to T/O.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) At beginning of period:

Officers: 37 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 615

(2) Net increase each month:

Officers: 3
Enlisted Men: 2

(3) Net decrease each month:

Officers: None
Enlisted Men: None

(4) At end of period:

Officers: 40 - 1 WO
Enlisted Men: 617

d-g Stations, Marches, Campaigns and Battles:

The Sixth Armored Division continued to hold a sector in the VII Corps Zone maintaining contact with the 26th and 80th Divisions and to send out active patrols to the NE, E, and SE. On the 4th the Division attached to the NE with the high ground NW of Sarre-ue-mines as the objective. The objective was taken by the 6th of December, Ellviller, Loupershouse, Farschviller, Ebering, Tinteling, Metzling, Hundling, Rouhling, and Telferding falling in the push.

The Sixth relieved the 80th Division and 2nd Cavalry Group and held the north flank of the XII Corps Zone as the Corps attack east continued.

On the 16th the Division transferred from the XII to the III Corps. The Division sector ran generally from Forbach to Sarre-ue-mines. On the 24th the Division was relieved by the 103 Infantry Division and moved to XX Corps reserve in Metz. On the 25th the Division began the move north to Merish to relieve the 10th Armored Division. After holding a sector between the 5th and 80th Divisions, the Sixth began to move north to the Bastogne area in preparation for an attack to the northeast.

December

A Company

1-3

Company A maintained defensive positions in the sector assigned Combat Command A near Valette.

4-6

Two platoons supported Combat Command A in the drive through Ebering, Cadenbronn, and Rouhling. In the attack toward Rouhling 1 Mk III tank, 1 75 mm AT gun, 1 20 mm AA gun, and 1 pillbox were destroyed.

26-29

The company held defensive positions in the vicinity of Eppeldorf and Emsdorf.