

771st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION HISTORY

1 January 1944 - 31 December 1944

A. ORIGINAL UNIT

The 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, separate, was activated 15 December 1941 at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, by Letter, War Department, File AG 320.2 (11-1741), MR-M-C, dated 3 December 1941.

The Battalion was formed from G and H Batteries of the 186th and 187th Field Artillery Regiments and the Anti-Tank Platoon of the 258th Field Artillery Regiment.



**B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION**

During the year 1944, the Tables of Organization and Equipment were changed from T/O and E 18-25, dated 27 January 1943, to T/O and E 18-25, dated 15 March 1944. Authority for this change was General Orders No. 50, Headquarters Ninth United States Army, dated 25 November 1944, and effective date of the change was 1 December 1944. This change resulted in a net loss to the Battalion of one enlisted man in the attached Medical Detachment. The firing companies A, B and C, each gained two enlisted men, Reconnaissance Company lost two enlisted men, and Headquarters Company lost four enlisted men.

Major T/E changes on this reorganization were as follows: Substitution of two armored personnel carriers for one 1 1/2 ton truck per firing platoon for protection for security personnel, four 1 1/2 ton trucks replaced two armored personnel carriers, M-20, in pioneer platoon of Reconnaissance Company, one 1/4 ton vehicle for each 3/4 ton C&R car in Headquarters Company, addition of one 1/4 ton vehicle to the Intelligence and Operations section. All personnel, except drivers, previously armed with the Carbine, M-1, were changed to the Rifle, M-1. Firing companies gained thirty-seven Rifles, M-1, Reconnaissance Company gained forty Rifles, M-1 and Headquarters Company gained sixty-seven Rifles, M-1.



C. STRENGTH

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS - WARRANT OFFICERS - ENLISTED MEN

Strength at Beginning of Period  
 Officers - 39, Warrant Officers - 1, Enlisted Men - 645

			STRENGTH			NET CHANGE		
			O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM
1	Feb	44	39	1	644	0	0	-1
1	Mar	44	38	1	643	-1	0	-1
1	Apr	44	37	1	649	-1	0	+6
1	May	44	34	1	646	-3	0	-3
1	Jun	44	36	1	647	+2	0	+1
1	Jul	44	36	1	646	0	0	-1
1	Aug	44	36	1	645	0	0	-1
1	Sept	44	36	1	642	0	0	-3
1	Oct	44	32	1	637	-4	0	-5
1	Nov	44	35	1	616	+3	0	-21
1	Dec	44	35	1	564	0	0	-52
31	Dec	44	39	1	564	+4	0	0

Net Change For Year

Officers 0 - Warrant Officers 0 - Enlisted Men -81



D. STATIONS

1. Unit at Wenvoe Camp, Barry, Glamorganshire, Wales, on 1 January 1944. (Temporary)
2. Departure from Wenvoe Camp, Barry, Glamorganshire, Wales. (Temporary)
  - a. First serial crossed IP 010600 May 1944.
  - b. Last serial crossed IP 010800 May 1944.
3. Arrival at Braunton Camp, Devonshire, England. (Temporary)
  - a. First serial arrived 012100 May 1944.
  - b. Last serial arrived 021600 May 1944.
4. Departure (A Company) from Braunton Camp, Devonshire, England. (Temporary)
  - a. Crossed IP 270600 August 1944.
5. Arrival (A Company) Fontainebleau, Seine et-Marne, France. (Temporary)
  - a. 041200 September 1944.
6. Departure (Battalion, less A Company) from Braunton Camp, Devonshire, England. (Temporary)
  - a. Crossed IP 150600 September 1944.
7. Arrival (Battalion, less A Company) Fontainebleau, Seine et-Marne, France. (Temporary)
  - a. 281100 September 1944.
8. Departure from Fontainebleau, Seine et-Marne, France. (Temporary)
  - a. First serial crossed IP 220800 October 1944.
  - b. Last serial crossed IP 221030 October 1944
9. Arrival at Tongres, Belgium. (Temporary)
  - a. First serial arrived 241000 October 1944.
  - b. Last serial arrived 241900 October 1944.



E. MARCHES

I. FOOT MARCHES.

- a. One ten mile march per month was conducted by all personnel during the winter months, January through April, inclusive.
- b. All foot marches were conducted for purpose of conditioning personnel.
- c. All foot marches were conducted in the vicinity of Wenvoe Camp, Barry, Glamorganshire, Wales, on hard surface roads, and generally in rainy weather.

II. MOTOR MARCHES.

- a. Two motor marches, exclusive of changes of stations, were held during the year.
  - 1. One march was conducted on the 25th of March 1944, starting and ending at Wenvoe Camp, Barry, Glamorganshire, Wales.
    - (a) Five serials.
    - (b) Rate of march - twenty miles per hour.
    - (c) Condition of roads and weather - hard surface roads, weather clear and cold.
    - (d) Head of column passed IP at 1400.  
Column cleared IP at 1430.
    - (e) Head of column passed RP at 1630.  
Column cleared the RP at 1730.
  - 2. The second march was conducted on the 3rd of April 1944, starting and ending at Wenvoe Camp, Barry, Glamorganshire, Wales.
    - (a) Five serials.
    - (b) Rate of march - fifteen miles per hour.
    - (c) Condition of roads and weather - hard surface roads, weather rainy.



II. MOTOR MARCHES (Cont'd)

- (d) Head of column passed IP at 1900.  
Column cleared IP at 1945.
- (e) Head of column passed RP at 2200.  
Column cleared RP at 2300.

b. The motor marches were conducted for the purpose of training in control and coordination, march discipline, and trial combat loading.



## F. CAMPAIGNS

The 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 102d Infantry Division, participated in the Battle of Germany from 24 October 1944 to 31 December 1944, with the purpose of aiding in the defeat of Germany. The Battalion first entered combat on the 3rd of November, and has done all of its fighting in Germany, between the Wurm and Roer Rivers, from Geilenkirchen to Flosdorf. During this period, elements of the Germany 183rd Volks-Grenadier Division, the 340th Volks-Grenadier Division, the 9th Panzer Division, and the 10th S.S. Panzer Division have been encountered, and gains of approximately five and one-half miles to seven miles have been recorded. The 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion was initially committed to action per TWX, from the Commanding General, Ninth United States Army, dated 1 November 1944.

## G. BATTLES

See "Campaigns"



H. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS.

The 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel David DeG. Smith, O247567, was initially committed to action on 3 November 1944, under operational control of the 102d Infantry Division. This was a defensive zone, from Gangelt, Germany to Frelenberg, Germany. During this time small arms, mortar and artillery fire were received.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Major	Frank F. Wilkins	0283866	Ex O
Captain	James C. Altemus	0395034	S-1
Captain	William A. Paddock	0389807	S-2
Captain	Robert J. Petersen	01165930	S-3
Captain	Charles E. Graeber	01821855	S-4

COMPANY COMMANDERS

1st Lt	Robert H. White	01821661	Hq Co
Captain	John E. Clarke	01822110	Rcn Co
Captain	Heber G. Winfield	01165988	A Co
1st Lt	Millard F. Randolph	01821627	B Co
1st Lt	Walter S. Beaver	01165817	C Co

This roster of Commanding Officers was in effect on 31 December 1944. Lieutenants Millard F. Randolph and Walter S. Beaver, meanwhile, having been promoted to Captains.

From the 6th to the 12th of November, the firing companies with attached Reconnaissance Platoons were in primary positions in vicinity of Stahe, Gilrath, Nierstras and Teveren. During this period A and B companies conducted harassing indirect fire missions. Two direct fire missions consisting of church steeple and cement tower, suspected artillery observation posts were demolished.





On 171800 November, C company moved into position in the vicinity of Immendorf, in support of the 406th R.C.T. On 190700 November, enemy armor consisting of four PzKw IV's and four PzKw V's were sighted and taken under fire. All were destroyed with the loss of one M-10 destroyer. On 191100 November, four PzKw V's were destroyed. On 191300 November, three enemy armored vehicles with towed PaK 38 were destroyed. On 201135 November, during the attack on Gereonsweiler, three PzKw VI's appeared about 3000 yards from firing positions and were taken under fire, direct hits were scored, but no armor was destroyed. The armored attack, however, was halted and these four tanks retired, and two M-10 destroyers were lost in this action. At 201200 November, two PzKw VI's appeared, were taken under fire and hit, but not destroyed. Two M-10 destroyers were lost. Four PzKw VI's appeared at 201600 November, of which two were destroyed and two M-10 destroyers were lost.

On 17 November, Company A, attached to the 405th R.C.T. moved into position at Frelenberg and Waurichen, and remained in this area until 20 November. On 201200 November, two PzKw VI's were taken under fire and destroyed. On 21 November, A Company, supported the attack on the high ground north and east of Immendorf. One M-10 destroyer was lost in this action. On 210900 November, B Company relieved C Company in support of the 406th R.C.T., from positions in the area of Apweiler and Gereonsweiler. C Company went into reserve in Immendorf for refitting and reinforcements.



During the period 21 November to 01 December, the firing companies, with attached Reconnaissance Platoons, were in direct support of their respective R.C.T.s, as follows:

A Company	-	405th R.C.T.
B Company	-	407th R.C.T.
C Company	-	406th R.C.T.

In this period harassing indirect fire missions were conducted.

On 010800 December, A Company moved in direct support of the attack on the high ground to the north and east of Gereonsweiler, assisting the infantry in assault, taking of pillboxes and troop shelters, and protection of the left flank. One Anti-Tank gun, 88mm, was destroyed. On 01 December, B and C Companies, moved in direct support of their respective R.C.T.s in the taking of Linnich, Welz, Rurdorf and Flosdorf to the banks of the Roer River.

During the period 02 December through 31 December, the firing companies, plus attached Reconnaissance Platoons, remained in direct support of the 102d Division front. In this time the companies conducted harassing indirect fire missions. Reconnaissance elements reconnoitered banks of the Roer River for possible fords and bridge sites. Pioneer Platoon of Reconnaissance Company, assisted the firing companies in preparation of defensive positions. Rest and rehabilitation were effected, and all elements utilized this rest period for materiel refitting.



I. LOSSES IN ACTION, OFFICERS AND MEN

1. During its first action, from 24 October to 16 November 1944, in a defensive engagement sector, Gangel, Germany to Frelenberg, Germany, the following officers and enlisted men were lost in action:

a. Killed in Action.

None

b. Wounded in Action.

Moore, Leonard L.	38038522	Pfc	6 Nov 44
Crowley, John B.	32047749	Sgt	6 Nov 44
Canale, Leo P.	32469928	Cpl	7 Nov 44
Samuelson, Louis R.	35472519	Cpl	9 Nov 44
Klein, Joseph (NMI)	20204743	S/ Sgt	11 Nov 44

c. Missing in Action.

None

2. In offensive action, from 17 November to 21 November 1944, in the vicinity of Apweiler, Germany, the following officers and enlisted men were lost in action:

a. Killed in Action.

Masullo, Anthony A.	20249025	Sgt	19 Nov 44
Welch, Charles E.	35037481	Pfc	19 Nov 44
Bernstein, Stanley (NMI)	20248197	Cpl	19 Nov 44
Glasco, Dean E.	37222130	Pvt	19 Nov 44
Egan, Robert J.	6878869	Pfc	21 Nov 44

b. Wounded in Action.

Strezeski, John S.	33115474	Tec 5	18 Nov 44
King, Julius D.	38258625	Tec 5	18 Nov 44
Auer, Conrad P.	36257864	Tec 5	19 Nov 44
Muscarella, Vincent (NMI)	32115700	Cpl	19 Nov 44
Visconti, Robert A.	20253463	Pvt	19 Nov 44
Brown, Joseph G.	33115386	Cpl	19 Nov 44
Maloney, Edward J.	20248871	Tec 5	19 Nov 44
Peery, Vernon E.	37147152	Sgt	19 Nov 44
Williams, Isaac E.	34058770	Sgt	19 Nov 44
Mazzocchi, August J.	20204745	Sgt	19 Nov 44



b. Wounded in Action. (Cont'd)

PETERSEN, JOHN H.	01823638	1st Lt	19 Nov 44
Petersen, Howard (NMI)	20253453	Sgt	19 Nov 44
McCrumb, Maynard C.	36193118	Pvt	19 Nov 44
Cole, William M.	33380391	Pfc	20 Nov 44
Aiello, Peter J.	20253340	Tec 5	20 Nov 44
Penny, James H.	33459639	Pfc	20 Nov 44
Wolter, Carl F.	32760856	Pvt	20 Nov 44
Klein, Louis (NMI)	20248157	Sgt	21 Nov 44
Pacuilla, William F.	20252811	Tec 5	21 Nov 44
Baltron, Theodore Jr (NMI)	33105433	Pfc	21 Nov 44
Johnson, Albert E.	31152209	Pfc	21 Nov 44
Martinkosky, Steve J.	35037581	Cpl	21 Nov 44

c. Missing in Action.

None

3. In offensive action, from 22 November to 01 December 1944, in the vicinity of Gereonsweiler, Germany, the following officers and enlisted men were lost in action:

a. Killed in Action.

HORTON, JOHN W.	01168293	1st Lt	23 Nov 44
DeGicco, Louis (NMI)	20253426	Tec 5	23 Nov 44
Jebavy, George P.	36827162	Pvt	23 Nov 44
Dauer, Paul F.	36523112	Pvt	23 Nov 44

b. Wounded in Action.

Fedorowicz, Walter G.	6974780	Cpl	22 Nov 44
Walden, Wayne J.	34782617	Pvt	22 Nov 44
Beals, John F.	31111654	Pfc	22 Nov 44
Moore, Franklin E.	16108446	Tec 5	22 Nov 44
Schoff, Clarence J.	32047665	Sgt	23 Nov 44
Snow, Joseph D.	20253470	Pvt	23 Nov 44
Cirigliano, Joseph E.	32088091	Pfc	23 Nov 44
Baseo, Angelo (NMI)	12204336	Pfc	23 Nov 44
Kniber, John (NMI)	36602095	Pfc	24 Nov 44
Ferry, Eugene J.	20204693	Pfc	24 Nov 44
Jones, Samuel T.	17076061	Tec 5	26 Nov 44
Chieffolo, Vincent F.	20252921	Sgt	28 Nov 44
Clark, Chauncey (NMI)	16110396	Pfc	30 Nov 44
Haney, Frank D.	20253227	Sgt	1 Dec 44
PEEPLS, MILTON B.	01823637	2nd Lt	1 Dec 44



c. Missing in Action.

None

4. In the defensive action, from 02 December to 31 December 1944, along the Roer River, the following officers and enlisted men were lost in action.

a. Killed in Action.

None

b. Wounded in Action.

Johnson, James C.	33451287	Pfc	2 Dec 44
Sanders, Roy J.	37491587	Pfc	4 Dec 44
Mojica, Jose A.	32177721	Pfc	9 Dec 44
Banther, Glenn A.	34364794	Tec 5	9 Dec 44
Whitworth, J. W. (IO) (DOW 17 Dec 44)	34360882	Pvt	16 Dec 44
Rozes, Haralanpos N.	32089298	Cpl	28 Dec 44
Hobaugh, Harold E.	33410045	Tec 5	28 Dec 44
West, Charles W.	34114804	Pfc	28 Dec 44
Menenchella, Mario M.	20252944	Sgt	29 Dec 44
Byrd, Hubert S.	35131778	Pvt	31 Dec 44

c. Missing in Action.

None



J. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. During the defensive and offensive operations of the Battalion, from 24 October through 31 December 1944, the following named officers and enlisted men distinguished themselves by heroic achievement in connection with operations against the enemy:

SILVER STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS)

<u>102d Div</u> <u>GO NO-YR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ORGN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
32 '44	Anthony A. Masullo	Sgt	20249025	C Co	17 Nov 44	Germany

SILVER STAR MEDAL

<u>102d Div</u> <u>GO NO-YR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ORGN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
2 '45	ALBERT H. DUCKWITZ	1st Lt	01822119	A Co	30 Nov 44	Germany
30 '44	Edward J. Maloney	Tec 5	20248871	C Co	20 Nov 44	Germany
30 '44	John A. Bertucci	S/Sgt	20204714	C Co	21 Nov 44	Germany

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

<u>102d Div</u> <u>GO NO-YR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ORGN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
29 '44	GEORGE F. KILLMER, JR	1st Lt	01823609	C Co	19 Nov 44	Germany
30 '44	Walter F. Nedza	Sgt	36602082	C Co	19 Nov 44	Germany



HEADQUARTERS 102D INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

APO 102, US Army  
13 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS:

NUMBER 29: E X T R A C T

III. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE F. KILLMER, JR., (Army Serial Number 01823609), Field Artillery, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in Germany on 19 November 1944, in connection with military operations against the enemy. FIRST LIEUTENANT KILLMER, while assisting in repelling an enemy counter attack, with complete disregard for personal safety, personally supervised the operation of his tank destroyer guns by moving from one vehicle to another in a confused situation when numerous enemy elements had penetrated the forward line and were in operation in his immediate vicinity. His actions steadied his men at a critical time and insured the efficient operation of his platoon at personal risk to himself in the presence of great danger. The leadership, courage, and devotion to duty by FIRST LIEUTENANT KILLMER in this act reflect great credit upon himself and to the military service. Entered military service from Illinois.

By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

/t/ G. P. LYNCH,  
Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/t/ F. H. STONE,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Thomas F. Stevens Jr.*  
THOMAS F STEVENS JR,  
CWO USA 771st TD Bn,  
Assistant Adjutant.



HEADQUARTERS 102D INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

AIO 102, US Army  
17 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS:

NUMBER 30: E X T R A C T

III. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men:

Sergeant Walter F. Nedza, (Army Serial Number 36602082), Field Artillery, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement on 19 November 1944 in Germany, in connection with military operations against the enemy. Sergeant Nedza, under enemy observation and intense enemy fire, on his own initiative summoned two riflemen and took charge of an M-10 tank that had been evacuated by its wounded crew members. Sergeant Nedza, acting as gun commander and gunner, with the assistance of two other riflemen, put out of action a heavy enemy tank and remained in position until relieved by an experienced tank crew. Later, he volunteered to go forward and establish a tank listening post, from which point he directed effective fire that repulsed an enemy tank attack. The courage, initiative, and devotion to duty shown by Sergeant Nedza regardless of his inexperience and the inexperienced riflemen in successfully operating a tank in an attack against the enemy reflect great credit upon himself and to the military service. Entered military service from Illinois.

By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

/s/ G. P. LYNCH,  
Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/t/ F. H. STONE,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Thomas F. Stevens Jr.*  
THOMAS F. STEVENS JR.,  
CWO USA 771st TD Bn,  
Assistant Adjutant.





HEADQUARTERS 102D INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

APO 102, US Army  
17 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS:

NUMBER 30:

E X T R A C T

III. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the SILVER STAR MEDAL is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

Technician Fifth Grade Edward J. Maloney, (Army Serial Number 20248871), Field Artillery, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy in Germany. With complete disregard for his personal safety and inconceivable courage during the period from 18 November 1944 to 20 November 1944, while engaged in attacking a strongly defended enemy town, Technician Fifth Grade Maloney, administered aid to his wounded companions and assisted in evacuating them to aid stations under withering enemy fire. When his corporal gunner was wounded and later when his tank commander was wounded, after evacuating them to safety, he assumed duties as tank commander and performed this task in a highly efficient manner. On 20 November 1944, when he saw a wounded rifleman of his organization, he again left his tank to evacuate the wounded man to an aid station, at which time he was wounded himself. The gallantry, courage, and consideration for his wounded companions, with complete disregard for his personal safety displayed by Technician Fifth Grade Maloney under the most hazardous conditions reflect great credit upon himself and to the military service. Entered military service from New York.

By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

/s/ G. P. LYNCH,  
Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/t/ F. H. STONE,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Thomas F. Stevens Jr.*  
THOMAS F. STEVENS JR.,  
CWO USA 771st TD Bn,  
Assistant Adjutant.



HEADQUARTERS 102D INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

APO 102, US Army  
17 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS:

NUMBER

30:

E X T R A C T

III. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the SILVER STAR MEDAL is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

Staff Sergeant John A. Bertucci, (Army Serial Number 20204714), Field Artillery, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy in Germany, from 19 November 1944 to 21 November 1944. Staff Sergeant Bertucci took command of his platoon when his platoon leader had to be evacuated and with foresight, coolness, and skill reorganized his lines for defense by placing the M-10 tanks of his platoon in tactical positions that successfully aided in the repulsing of an enemy tank attack. During this action Staff Sergeant Bertucci personally accounted for five enemy Mark IV and Mark V tanks. The skillful handling of his platoon of tanks under heavy enemy artillery fire, sporadic enemy small arms fire, and against enemy armor heavier and numerically superior to his own was a large contributing factor in the successful repulsing of the fierce enemy attack. The gallantry leadership, and skill shown by Staff Sergeant Bertucci in the tactical handling of his platoon against fierce enemy attack reflect great credit upon himself and to the military service. Entered military service from New York.

By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

/t/ G. P. LYNCH,  
Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/t/ F. H. STONE,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Thomas F. Stevens Jr.*  
THOMAS F STEVENS JR,  
CWO USA 771st TD Bn,  
Assistant Adjutant.



HEADQUARTERS 102D INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

APO 102, US Army  
21 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS:

NUMBER 32:

E X T R A C T

I. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL. (POSTHUMOUS)

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the SILVER STAR MEDAL is posthumously awarded the following enlisted man:

Sergeant Anthony A. Masullo, (Army Serial Number 20249025), Field Artillery, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy in Germany. On the night of 17 November 1944, Sergeant Masullo assisted in evacuating the crew of a flaming tank that had been hit by enemy artillery. Realizing that one of the men had not been evacuated, he entered the burning tank to remove him, administer aid, and evacuate him to safety. Returning to his own tank, he accounted for the destruction of two heavy enemy tanks before his own was hit. Upon leaving his tank, Sergeant Masullo was mortally wounded before he could reach comparative safety. The gallantry, loyalty, disregard for personal safety, and consideration for the wounded, shown by Sergeant Masullo in this heroic act greatly inspired all those who saw him and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from New York.

By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

/t/ G. F. LYNCH,  
Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/t/ F. H. STONE,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Thomas F. Stevens Jr.*  
THOMAS F STEVENS JR,  
CWO USA 771st TD Bn,  
Assistant Adjutant.



HEADQUARTERS 102D INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

AFO 102, US Army  
3 January 1945

GENERAL ORDERS:

NUMBER 2: E X T R A C T

II. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations, 600-45, as amended, and Memorandum Number 34, Headquarters Ninth United States Army, 8 September 1944, as amended, the SILVER STAR MEDAL is awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

FIRST LIEUTENANT ALBERT H. DUCKWITZ, (Army Serial Number 01822119), Field Artillery, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy in Germany on 30 November 1944. When assaulting troops were held up by the intense fire from fortified enemy positions during an attack against the enemy, FIRST LIEUTENANT DUCKWITZ moved forward to a position from which he could observe enemy positions and effectively direct adjustment of artillery fire which forced the enemy to withdraw. He fearlessly adjusted fire that destroyed an enemy concrete emplacement holding up assaulting infantry elements in their advance. He continued to render valuable support from his exposed position with utter disregard for personal safety until attacking units reached their objective. The gallantry, fearlessness, and devotion to duty displayed by FIRST LIEUTENANT DUCKWITZ in the presence of intense personal danger reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Michigan.

By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

/t/ G. P. LYNCH,  
Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/t/ F. H. STONE,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
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