

HEADQUARTERS 635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

*AC
for
copy*

3 June 1945

SUBJECT: Action against Enemy, Reports after/after Action Reports.

THROUGH: Commanding General, 71st Infantry Division, APO 360, U. S. Army.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.

REPORT SUBMITTED FOR MAY 1945

a. Original Unit: Reorganized from Towed to Self-propelled Tank Destroyer Battalion effective 2 May 45 under T/O & R 18-25 dated 15 March 44, per letter Headquarters Third United States Army, file AG 320.2 TD-GNMCC, subject "Reorganization of 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion", dated 3 May 45.

b. Changes in organization: None.

<u>Strength:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted men</u>
	1 May 45	34	2	707
	31 May 45	36	2	709
Increase or Decrease		2	0	2

d. Stations: Germany and Austria.

e. Marches: All marches and moves by Battalion Command Post and Gun Companies noted in narrative listed as Appendix No. 1.

f. Campaign: Western Europe.

g. Battles: See narrative listed as Appendix No. 1.

h. Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. Smith, Mint (n), O123028, FA.

i. Losses in action: None.
(4 enlisted men wounded but not evacuated and 1 officer and 18 enlisted men evacuated as non-battle casualties)

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

<u>Name and Rank</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Authority</u>
<u>Silver Star</u> Capt Ireland H. Williams	A	GO 18, Hq 71st Inf Div, 7 May 45
<u>Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster)</u> Lt Col Mint Smith	Bn Hq	GO 21, Hq 71st Inf Div, 15 May 45

k. Photographs: None.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
William D. Lofe, et al R60
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
 4876 3/2

After Action Report, No. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 45, cont'd.

1. Inclosure: Appendix No. 1 as Inclosure No. 1.
Commendation of 635th TD Bn, Inclosure No. 2
" of Co A, " " " " No. 3
" of 1st Plat, Co A, " " No. 4
" of Co C, 635 TD Bn, " No. 5

LINT SMITH
Lt. Col., PA
Commanding

LIBERTY

HEADQUARTERS 635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

APPENDIX NO. 1

NARRATIVE

Excerpts from Unit Journal
Incidents

May 1945

- 1 Bn Commander approved the following promotions in Company A: Sgt Harold A. Roones, 37094221, to S/Sgt, duty 610, and Cpl Lawrence H. Getting, 37016155, to Sgt, duty 610.

- 2 Bn CP moved - left coord 680278 Lallersdorf, Germany at 0230 hrs 2 May and arrived coord 645200 Assembly Area vicinity Landau, Germany 0420 hrs 2 May - distance traveled 5 miles. Crossed Isar River at Landau, Germany at 0415 hrs.

Bn Cp moved - left coord 645200 Assembly Area vicinity Landau, Germany 0945 hrs 2 May and arrived coord 688090 Simbach, Germany 1140 hrs 2 May - distance traveled 8.5 miles.

Bn S-X and Pcs Hoyt and Arata took 7 Pcs on highway near CP building Simbach, Germany on 2 May.

Co B moved - left coord 680276 Lallersdorf, Germany at 1845 hrs 1 May and arrived coord 691154 Reichersdorf, Germany 2200 hrs 1 May - distance traveled 12 miles.

- 3 Bn CP moved - left coord 688090 Simbach, Germany 0730 hrs 3 May and arrived assembly area coord 846948 Pfarrkirchen, Germany at 0835 hrs 3 May - distance traveled 17.5 miles.

Co A reported

Co A moved - left coord 680270 Lallersdorf, Germany 1600 hrs 1 May and arrived coord 724168 Lappersdorf, Germany 1830 hrs 1 May - distance traveled 12.8 miles.
Co A moved - left coord 724168 Lappersdorf, Germany 1330 hrs 2 May and arrived 1945 hrs 2 May coord 060879 Rothalmunster, Germany - distance traveled 41.7 miles.
On 2 May the 1st Platoon captured 600 Hungarians, including a Brigadier General, in the woods north of Mariakirchen, Germany. The platoon lined the prisoners up, organized them, checked them for weapons, marched them down the road and turned them over.
On 2 May the 4th Platoon attached to the 1st Bn, 66th Inf Regt received the mission of securing the dam at Egglfing. 1st Lt Horman, Platoon leader, and his Security Sergeant, Sgt. Otto, accompanied by a Major and a Sergeant from the Infantry, started across the dam while Pvt. Peatfield of the 4th Platoon covered their crossing with a .50 cal. MG on his 1/4 ton by firing on the high ground to their front. Although the small force drew enemy fire from dug-in positions, they continued on. Sgt Otto, on his own volition, located the tunnel under the dam, entered it, explored it, found the demolition charge and cut the wires. Lt Horman then placed his 3" guns in position at coord 113838 and fired 14 rds HE and 1 rd APC at the dug-in positions. He cleared the area, destroyed a control tower, took 40 Pcs and held the position until the infantry crossed the dam.

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S E C R E T

Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Hq. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

At 1900 hrs 2 May, 1st Platoon took 2 PsW at coord 895910 Trifttern, Germany.
Between 1100 and 1500 hrs, 2nd Platoon took 43 PsW in area Pfarrkirchen, Germany.

Bn CP moved - left coord 846948 assembly area Pfarrkirchen, Germany 1225 hrs 3 May and arrived coord 040830 Malching, Germany 1405 hrs 3 May - distance traveled 19.5 miles.

Co B reported

Co B moved - left coord 691154 Reichersdorf, Germany 1145 hrs 2 May and arrived coord 891912 Trifttern, Germany 1600 hrs 2 May - distance traveled 31 miles.
4th Platoon took 14 PsW near Ering, Germany on 2 May.

Bn Rear Ech moved into Pfarrkirchen, Germany from Straubing, Germany 1245 hrs 3 May.

Sgt Hood and Cpl Marsh, Hq Co, took 1 PsW at Pfarrkirchen, Germany on 2 May.

Sgt Hood and vehicle crew took 3 PsW at Malching, Germany 3 May.

Bn Commander took 2 PsW on road from Pfarrkirchen, Germany to Malching, Germany on 3 May.

Co C reported

Co C moved - left coord 615228 Tilting, Germany 1930 hrs 1 May and arrived coord 637180 Niedhooken, Germany at 2015 hrs 1 May - distance traveled 5.8 miles.

Co C moved - left coord 637180 Niedhooken, Germany 1130 hrs 2 May and arrived coord 820874 Walburgskahn, Germany 0130 hrs 3 May - distance traveled 31 miles.

1st Lt Stewart took 2 PsW (officers) at Walburgskahn, Germany on 2 May.

4th Platoon took 4 PsW on 2 May at Walburgskahn, Germany.

4. Pfc Mattwanschke, Hq Co, took 3 PsW in Malching, Germany on 4 May.

Bn CP moved - left coord 040830 Malching, Germany 0810 hrs 4 May and arrived at Wurthing, Austria coord 528679 at 1915 hrs. CP established in Castle Wurthing used by Nazis as S. n. Gruppenschule. Crossed Inn River at Ering, Germany at 0820 and landed on Austrian soil at Frauenstein.

Bn CP group took 1 PsW enroute to Wurthing, Austria.

Bn Commander with a small group of enlisted men from the Bn platoons on reconnaissance of area were in a column in vicinity of Pfaffing which drew small arms fire. Enemy were sighted through binoculars on the column's right flank and to eliminate the possibility of a surprise attack on our troops, the Bn Commander sent a five man patrol to act as a flank protection patrol - patrol took 3 PsW.

At 1855 hrs 4 May at Pfaffendorf, while enroute to Wurthing, while leading the Bn CP column, the Bn Commander sighted movement in wooded area to right of road and directed .50 cal MG fire from Sgt Jones's M-3 directly behind his vehicle. Pfc Hoyt at the MG sighted a small group of enemy and fired into them. 7 enemy Luftwaffe pilots surrendered - one had two .50 cal slugs through his brief case.

Rear Ech reported 8 PsW taken in town of Reid, 4 were Wehrmacht and 4 of the Luftwaffe.

At 0800 hrs 4 May the Bn Commander sent Capt Page and quartering party consisting of 3 1/4 tons and 1 M-8 to locate and secure billets for forward and rear echelon CPs in Austria. The group infiltrated across the Inn River with instructions to follow the infantry. The party discovered at Affnag that they were well ahead of the infantry. They attached themselves to and followed a platoon of 71st Rcn Troop forward which stopped at Affnag to clean out a pocket of enemy cavalry. Our party sighted a train consisting of 4 cars and engine traveling at high speed. Our M-8 gave chase and forced the engineer to stop. It proved to be a mail and passenger train. Two enemy soldiers were taken prisoner and the mail in the baggage car confiscated. (Later delivered to 71st Division G-2 by the Bn Commander). Our party then caught up with the Rcn Platoon and continued on with them. At coord 4666 the head of the column drew machine gun fire from dug in positions. Before our advance party could displace forward, the Rcn Platoon had the situation cleared and the column once again proceeded. At Horbach the column drew heavy small arms fire from about 200 enemy. A task force from the 2nd Bn, 14th Inf Regt, advanced to take the situation in hand. At the same time, Capt Page sent the M-8 and one 1/4 ton in charge of Sgt Hood to cover the Infantry's right flank. At coord 465645 Sgt Hood sighted 5 enemy general purpose vehicles with soldiers trying to start the vehicles. Sgt Hood's patrol knocked out the 5 vehicles, wounded 3 enemy and took 22 PzV including one Captain. Horbach cleared by the infantry, our party left the Rcn Platoon and proceeded to Bachmanning. Adequate billets could not be located. On the outskirts of Hundhagar, our group met 4 friendly infantrymen who were outposting Bachmanning for their company. They advised Capt Page that they sighted enemy in Hundhagar but did not know their disposition. Capt Page in his 1/4 ton and the M-8, and including the 4 infantrymen, entered the town and immediately drew enemy small arms fire. The remaining 2 1/4 tons then entered town and a sharp fire fight ensued. Our party killed 2 enemy, took 120 PzV, including 20 officers, and knocked out 6 general purpose vehicles and immobilized 9 more. Sgt Cunningham fired his .30 cal MG at enemy in woods coord 515675 with unknown results. The party proceeded to Furthing and took over Schloss Furting occupied by the Nazi Party as an SA Gruppenschule. The School's administrator was taken prisoner.

- 5 Bn Commander, enroute to Division Headquarters, took 22 members of the German Luftwaffe prisoner. 2nd Lt Moore delivered the prisoners to the Divisional PVE at Lambach.

Co A moved - left coord 060879 Rotthalmunster, Germany 1600 hrs 3 May and arrived coord 151845 Obernberg, Germany 4 May - distance traveled 24.4 miles.

Bn Rear Ech group took 7 PzV in Reid on 5 May.

Co C moved - left coord 820874 Waldburgskehln, Germany at 1700 hrs 3 May and arrived coord 099799 Mooseham, Germany 2100 hrs 3 May - distance traveled 21 miles.

Co C moved - left coord 099799 Mooseham, Germany 1630 hrs 4 May and arrived coord 574622 Lambach, Austria 2140 hrs 4 May - distance traveled 41 miles.

Company B reported

Co B moved - left coord 891912 Triftern, Germany 0750 hrs 3 May and arrived coord 120740 Folling, Germany 1645 hrs 3 May - distance traveled 24 miles.

Co B moved - left coord 120740 Folling, Germany 1205 hrs 4 May and arrived

Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Hq. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

coord 560620 Lambach, Austria 2030 hrs 4 May - distance traveled 34 miles. On 4 May 2nd Platoon took 231 Hungarians, including 62 officers, prisoners near Grolsham. All weapons were collected and destroyed and prisoners turned over to the Regimental P.E.

6 1st Lt Bonds, Rear Ech, took 2 PzW vicinity Reid, Germany on 5 May.

Company A reported

Co A moved - left coord 151845 Obernberg, Germany 0530 hrs 6 May and arrived coord 669709 Wels, Austria at 0900 hrs 6 May - distance traveled 49 miles.

At 0600 hrs 3 May the 1st Platoon was in position vicinity Obernberg, at airfield vicinity coord 180852 east of Obernberg, a German pilot landed his plane apparently believing the airfield still in the hands of the Germans. S/Sgt Workman ran forward as the plane tried to take off and fired his personal weapon at the occupants. 3 members of the German Luftwaffe surrendered themselves and their plane. At 0730 hrs 9 additional prisoners were taken at the airfield.

At 0700 hrs 4 May, S/Sgt Workman and Pfc Schmid took 22 prisoners. At 1200 hrs the 1st Platoon took 24 SS prisoners with 2 towed guns and trucks, and at 1400 hrs Sgt Feiner and Pvt Burnett knocked out a Czech light tank with a hand grenade, personnel casualties unknown.

On 5 May, Lt Silki, Co A In O, his driver, Pvt Derr, and gunner, Pvt Kulish, captured 2 enemy gas tank trucks containing 800 gallons gasoline, also 27 PzW at coord 655712 Lehen.

At 1400 hrs 5 May the 1st Platoon captured an enemy artillery battery intact with 81 enemy personnel and their commanding officer, a Captain, at coord 825405. One horsedrawn 88mm gun was still undestroyed and was captured. The platoon also captured an armored vehicle mounting a 47mm gun and 11 PzW in the same area.

On 4 May the 2nd Platoon took 170 prisoners at Reid.

Co C reported

Co C moved - left coord 574622 Lambach, Austria at 1500 hrs 5 May and arrived coord 882639 Droissendt, Austria 1930 hrs 5 May - distance traveled 31.6 miles. On 4 May the 3rd Platoon attached to the 2nd Bn, of the 14th Inf Regt supported that unit in its attack to secure Lambach, Austria. Enroute to the objective, the Platoon seized the high ground to the approaches to Lambach. The Platoon first went into position on the high road at coord 510660 northwest of Lambach to protect the Battalion's flank and fired their 3" guns in woods directly east of that position. Looking for further targets, they displaced their guns southeast to coord 534628 and sighted a locomotive racing to the east. One rd 3" APC hit the locomotive and knocked it off the track. 1st Lt Leo D. Kinnard, 608th PA Bn, was with the platoon directing artillery fire on a German convoy when a German sniper fired at his OP with an automatic weapon believed to be a machine gun. Cpl Paul Grabish stood up in full view of the sniper and with his M-1 rifle brought fire on the sniper. A few seconds later, Sgt Hoffman stood up, also in full view, and with a .50 cal MG neutralized the sniper's position. To further secure the platoon's right flank, Cpl Grabish led a half track over to that position and found 70 Germans fully armed directly facing the flank. It was later learned that a battalion of infantry was to pass through the platoon area. Sgt Hoffman with a half track proceeded down

Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Hq. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

the route the main column was to follow, clearing it of enemy and entered the town of Lambach itself. Lt Standfield, Platoon Commander, sent out small combat patrols and took 200 prisoners. 75 enemy dead were counted as a result of the 3" firing. 21 horsedrawn vehicles and 10 general purpose motor vehicles were destroyed. Ammunition expended 36 rds 3" APC, 10 rds 3" HVAF, 1120 rds .50 cal MG, 840 rds .30 cal M-1, 1670 rds .30 cal MG and 150 rds carbine.

On 4 May the 2nd Platoon took 38 prisoners vicinity Holzling.

On 4 May the 1st Platoon took 40 prisoners vicinity Mooseham.

On 4 May 1st Sgt Spangler took 5 prisoners in Lambach.

At 1240 hrs 6 May, 1st Lt Tremmer, Hq Co, with a small Recon patrol, took 3 PWS in a farmhouse one mile northeast of the Bn CP. A complete radio receiving and sending set was found hidden in a haystack in the barn.

Company B reported

Co B moved - left coord 560620 Lambach, Austria 1600 hrs 5 May and arrived coord 972602 Steyr, Austria 2000 hrs 5 May - distance traveled 35 miles.

On 5 May 1st Platoon in position northern edge of Steyr drew fire from two 88mm dual purpose guns. Sgt Mueller's section returned the fire and knocked the guns out, firing 15 rds HE, 2 APC and 1 HVAF.

On 5 May the 4th Platoon in position northern edge Steyr fired on enemy personnel in woods generally northwest of Steyr who were holding up the infantry advance. Position neutralized by fire from our 3" guns - mission accomplished as infantry proceeded through woods without opposition. Ammunition expended 14 rds 3" HE, 1 rd 3" HVAF and 1 rd 3" HBT105.

On 5 May on northern edge of Steyr, a group of our infantry captured a number of enemy personnel in vehicles. Two of the vehicles loaded with enemy soldiers attempted to escape. Pvt Logue fired 100 rds .50 cal from his MG killing 1 and wounding 1, and stopped the trucks which were promptly retaken by the infantry.

On 5 May the 4th Platoon took 100 prisoners in a German camp on northern edge of Steyr.

Bn CP group took 6 PWS (2 Captains) in our CP area Furthing and 4 prisoners at Offenhausen (1 officer)

Following radio message received from 71st Division CP "we moved out of Lambach, you may occupy town now". Bn Commander sent Lt Moore and party out to secure an adequate CP location in Lambach.

7 At 0030 hrs 7 May the Bn Commander, with a small group from Recon platoons, left Furthing for Lambach, Austria to take charge of the 71st Infantry Division prisoner of War Enclosure on order from the Commanding General, 71st Division.

Bn CP moved - left coord 528769 Furthing, Austria at 0800 hrs 7 May and arrived coord 565601 Lambach, Austria 0922 hrs 7 May - distance traveled 8.7 miles.

Co C reported

On 5 May the 1st Platoon took 650 PWS at coord 730640 Lipbach, Austria. The platoon supported the 1st Bn, 14th Inf Regt by unhooking their 3" guns and advancing as armored infantry in halftracks and rounded up the 650 PWS without assistance. Ammunition expended 240 rds .50 cal MG, 250 rds .30 cal MG and 85 M-1.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, No. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

Co A moved - left coord 669709 els, Austria 1345 hrs 6 May and arrived coord 920563 schmach, Austria 1743 hrs 6 May - distance traveled 32.8 miles.

Rear Ech took one prisoner their area Murthing, Austria.

Company B reported

The 3rd Platoon was given mission of defending the dam and bridge at Bledigut, Austria and proceeded up road north of Steyr toward Kronstorf. While still in an assembly position near road at coord 0070 the platoon was taken under intense direct enemy fire from a battery of 88s from woods on high ground across Trns River and from Ernstshofen. One of the platoon's 3" guns was put out of action by a direct hit by an enemy artillery shell. Gunner Cpl Gabriel Clarke, joined by Pfc Jack Sumpter, who was not in his gun crew, moved from cover and started an artillery duel with the enemy battery. Cpl Clarke kept firing at the visible flashes from the enemy guns while under intense artillery fire himself and succeeded in knocking out two 88s. He later knocked out 3 enemy general purpose vehicles and 1 20mm gun which was firing on our troops. Gunner Cpl Sherman Collins was then able to put his gun in position and he succeeded in knocking out 1 88mm gun and stilling the fire of the remaining 88mm gun in the enemy battery, and knocked out 2 general purpose vehicles. The platoon then fired into Ernstshofen on Battalion order at enemy personnel with no known results. The range varied from 1500 to 2500 yards. Platoon also credited with a possible on one self-propelled 88mm gun. While the platoon was under heavy fire, Pfc Ewers moved from cover and drove his 1/4 ton to a protected position. Ammunition expended 40 rds 3" APC, 25 rds 3" HE and 15 rds 3" HVAP. Following men were wounded in the action but remained in a duty status after treatment: 1st Lt Melvin J. Dall, shell frag neck and right shoulder. Pfc Kenneth L. Dickenburg, shell frag right lower leg. Pvt Claude W. Roach, shell frag left thigh and back. Pvt Arthur V. Poor, Medic, shell frag left hand. On 6 May moving into Kronstorf, Austria, the 3rd Platoon sighted two Mark IV tanks in that town with engines running and crews outside of tanks. The Platoon Commander sent two combat patrols into Kronstorf, took 12 tankmen prisoners and burned tanks with Thermite grenades - total number of prisoners taken in Kronstorf - 60.

Bn Rear Ech group took 15 PsW including 1 officer in Murthing Austria on 7 May.

The Bn Commander reported for record: At 0030 hrs 7 May the Commanding General, 71st Infantry Division, ordered the Bn Commander to proceed to Lambach, Austria with a detail of men to take over the Prisoner of War Enclosure there for the purpose of guarding, feeding and administering all prisoners of war and to hold them for eventual discharge or evacuation; to relieve a platoon of infantry from H Company, 5th Infantry Regiment currently on duty at the P.W. It was found that the camp was too congested, without proper sanitation and water and a more suitable place was immediately found. All senior German officers were collected and a Colonel was placed in charge of the camp insofar as relations with the prisoners were concerned. Through interpreters, the German Colonel was ordered to organize his men into companies consisting of 2 officers and 210 men. They were marched to the new area adjacent to the River Ager, ordered to bathe and adequately clean up, dig latrines and remain in that area. Guards were posted around the entire area; good use being made of available M-8s and M-20s. Food was located in a warehouse containing German food and is being used.

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A truck company of German vehicles manned by Germans was organized for the purpose of hauling the food to the cage. At 1800 hrs 7 May the enclosure held 19,160 prisoners including 700 officers of which over 300 were of field grade. During the day a Lieutenant from XX Corps Headquarters visited the cage and ordered a train prepared to evacuate some prisoners. The train consisting of 35 cars was made up with the aid of the Station Master and was ready at 1500 hours. The Lieutenant was to return and give the order for departure and destination of train - this word was never received. Officers, excepting those in charge of the newly organized companies, were billeted in the railroad station and adjacent building. Box cars and coaches were provided for shelter at night. All German medical personnel were segregated and placed in one group in separate building. German medical officers were instructed as to our methods of sanitation. At 1700 hrs a water point was installed for the cage with the water taken from the river. All female prisoners belonging to the Wehrmacht were sent to the hospital in Lambach. During the day some 15 prisoners were evacuated due to illness, etc. Our Battalion Surgeon made an inspection in company with the German senior Medical Officer. The German officer was instructed that it was his responsibility that the camp was thoroughly policed and latrines dug, used, and new ones dug daily. During the day thousands of slave laborers, displaced persons and soldiers of the following nationalities were cleared through the Cage: Yugoslav, Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, Greek, Rumanian, Hungarian, Spanish, Italian, French, Belgian, English and Holland Dutch. The Hungarians, most of whom were accompanied by women and children and had horse-drawn vehicles were segregated and placed in a separate enclosure. No guards were placed over them. A Displaced Persons camp was organized under the supervision of 1st Lt. Sands, Hq. Company, and a separate camp for females was established under the supervision of 1st Lt. Paul W. Wholehon, and closely guarded. Some 300 to 400 members of Organization Todt were also segregated and placed in a separate enclosure by themselves. Considerable difficulty was experienced with displaced persons from the Jewish concentration camp located 6 kilometers from Lambach - all ordered to be delivered to Pels to a separate camp established for them. Orders were received from XX Corps Hq to organize a truck company with German vehicles which was accomplished with 25 vehicles. Orders were received not to move vehicles prior to inspection from a Corps Ordnance Team - the team did not show up for the inspection. An American Captain turned in 22 men dressed in firemen's uniforms, claiming they were SS troopers who had dressed in these uniforms to escape detection. One of their members stated that he was a genuine fireman and a member of an organized fire fighting unit and was compelled to accompany the SS Troopers, but he had not notified American military authorities and they were picked up and turned into our cage. They were segregated and kept apart from the rest of the prisoners and compelled to dig latrines. Four British soldiers brought in an SS Major who was in charge of the PW camp where they had been held by the Germans. He was in civilian clothes and claimed he was a civilian throughout the entire war period and in no way connected with the SS. He was placed in confinement. Trouble between German and Austrian soldiers was quelled - under stress of organization it was not possible to segregate the Germans from the Austrians, but this will be done later. Capt Page was appointed assistant in charge of the entire cage under the personal supervision of the Bn. Commander. Lt. Tremer was placed in charge of the guard and Lt Moore was given the mission of securing provisions for the prisoners.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, No. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

- 8 Received Secret letter, file AG 320.2-CNMCC, Headquarters Third United States Army, dated 3 May 45, subject "Reorganization of 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion", ...effective 2 May 1945, 635th TD Battalion previously organized in accordance with T/O & E 18-35, 1 September 1944, is reorganized (to self-propelled) in accordance with T/O & E 18-25, 15 March 1944 with changes, with an authorized strength of 35 officers, 2 warrant officers and 607 EM. Existing authorizations for overstrength not effected. No enlisted personnel will be reduced in grade.

Co C moved - left coord 882639 Droissenst, Austria 0930 hrs 8 May and arrived coord 863657 Stichelby, Austria 0945 hrs 8 May - distance traveled 1-1/2 miles.

Company A reported

Co A moved - left coord 920563 Aschnach, Austria 1000 hrs 8 May and arrived coord 972582 Garsten, Austria 1200 hrs 8 May - distance traveled 7.2 miles. At 0830 hrs 7 May the 4th Platoon moved into Ternberg, Austria coord 941489. At 0900 hrs, Lt Horman, Platoon Commander, sent a combat patrol to check the area. 60 Germans guarding Russian PWs were taken prisoner.

Capt Charles B. Smith, Bn S-2 on temporary duty with G-3 Section 71st Infantry Division, returned to duty with the battalion.

Co B reported that 2nd Lt Klein, with Colonel Wooten, commanding the 5th Infantry Regiment, when the Colonel made contact with the Russian patrol on the east side of Steyr, Austria.

- 9 Bn Commander appointed Acting Bürgermeister for the following towns: Lambach, Pernwang, Bachmanning, Neukirchen, Edt and Stadl-Paura, all in Austria.

1st Lt Fehrig and Pvt Senne assigned to Bürgermeister's office in Lambach in the absence of Military Government detail.

- 11 Companies A, B and C attached to the 66th, 5th and 14th Infantry Regiments respectively, relieved of attachment and reverted to battalion control as of 0600 11 May.

Co A moved - left coord 972582 Garsten, Austria at 0800 hrs 11 May and arrived coord 553588 Enemy Ammunition Dump 3 kilometers southwest of Lambach, Austria, distance traveled 34.1 miles.

Co B moved - left coord 972602 Steyr, Austria 0700 hrs 11 May and arrived coord 550586 Enemy Ammunition Dump 3 kilometers southwest of Lambach, Austria at 0930 hrs 11 May - distance traveled 34 miles.

Co C moved - left coord 863657 Stichelby, Austria 1500 hrs 10 May and arrived coord 855650 bivouac area one mile southwest of Stichelby, Austria 1515 hrs 10 May - distance traveled 1 mile.

Co C moved - left coord 855650 bivouac area one mile southwest of Stichelby, Austria 0700 hrs 11 May and arrived coord 543584 Enemy Ammunition Dump 3 kilometers southwest of Lambach, Austria at 0845 hrs 11 May - distance traveled 31 miles.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Ho. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

- 12 Letter of commendation from CO, 1st Battalion, 66th Infantry Regiment to 1st Lt Earl L. Procter, Platoon Commander, 1st Platoon Company A received 1 certified copy attached as Incl. 4.
- 14 War Dept film "Two Down and One to Go" shown to all officers and men of this battalion present for duty.
- 15 Commanding General, 71st Infantry Division presented the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal to the Bn Commander for meritorious service in support of active combat operations from 15 March 1945 to 15 May 1945 in Germany and Austria. Presentation made in the public square in Lambach, Austria.
- 16 Received Secret letter, file AG 200.6 OpCo, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, subject: "Individual Service Award of the Bronze Service Arrowhead" ... awarding members of this battalion the right to wear the Bronze Service Arrowhead for participating in the assault which secured the initial Normandy Beachheads as part of Forces "O" and "B".

Received letter of commendation dated 15 May 45 from CG, 71st Infantry Division, certified true copy attached as Incl 2.
- 17 Received letter of commendation from CO, 66th Infantry Regiment for our Company A, dated 14 May 45, with a comparable indorsement from the CG, 71st Infantry Division, certified true copy attached as Incl 3.
- 22 Co C moved - left coord 543584 Enemy Ammunition Dump 3 kilometers southwest of Lambach, Austria 1200 hrs 22 May and arrived coord 582632 enemy food warehouse 1-1/2 kilometers northeast of Lambach, Austria - distance traveled 7 miles.

Received commendation for Company C with accompanying remarks from Battalion Commanders of the 14th Infantry Regiment to whom Company C platoons attached with comparable indorsement from CG, 71st Infantry Division dated 19 May 45, certified true copies attached as Incl. 5.
- 23 Co B moved - left coord 550586 Enemy Ammunition Dump 3 kilometers southwest of Lambach, Austria 1325 hrs 22 May and arrived coord 561613 Stadl-Paura, Austria 1335 hrs 22 May - distance traveled 2 miles.

Co A moved - left coord 553588 Enemy Ammunition Dump 3 kilometers southwest of Lambach, Austria 0850 hrs 23 May and arrived coord 603617 area 2 kilometers southeast of Lambach, Austria 0915 hrs - distance traveled 5 miles.
- 29 3 SP M-18 Tank Destroyers received, first new equipment since reorganization to Self-Propelled Tank Destroyer Battalion.
- 30 6 SP M-18 Tank Destroyers received.
- 31 2 SP M-18 Tank Destroyers received.

Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Hq. 635th TD Bn., 3 June 1945, cont'd.

Summary

V-E Day found the Battalion in Lambach, Austria, and after 11 months in the line in action against the enemy with only one ten-day rest period immediately after active participation in the Ardennes Campaign, we took over our assigned duty of guarding, feeding and administering the Prisoner of War Cage in Lambach. When the Battalion Commander took over the supervision of the cage on 7 May, 19,160 prisoners were in it. After discharging 10,483 enlisted men and 575 officers, 792 Volkstrum and 67 Wacs through 31 May, on that day we still had in the cage 785 officers, 20,392 enlisted men and 92 political prisoners, and in the hospitals under our supervision 82 officers, 1,182 enlisted men and 418 displaced persons. In a segregated cage under special guard were 65 SS officers and 2,540 SS troopers. The Displaced Persons we organized under officer supervision processed 2,341 persons for shipment to their homes and on 31 May we still had 3,905 displaced persons on hand. Prisoners were screened by CIC personnel before discharge and those within walking distance from Lambach were rapidly released. All means of transportation was utilized within prescribed regulations to send prisoners and displaced persons to their own homes.

The Battalion was awarded the Bronze Service Award for participating in the initial assault for the Normandy Beachheads, and throughout the entire campaign on the continent maintained the highest combat efficiency. Battle casualties were 1 officer and 27 enlisted men killed in action and 1 officer and 8 enlisted men dead of wounds received in action, or a total dead of 2 officers and 35 enlisted. 5 officers and 115 enlisted men were wounded in action and evacuated and 3 officers and 79 enlisted men were wounded in action but not evacuated. The battalion participated actively in the following campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. We took 4,630 prisoners of war and knocked out eleven tanks. We fought as infantry and supported all action of the organizations we were attached to. Generally the firing companies have been under Divisional control and used in support of organic anti-tank defense. While attached to the 4th Cavalry Group, Wacs, the firing companies were utilized for screening missions, road patrols against enemy patrol activity, combat patrols, outposts, road blocks and dismounted as infantry in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest. Our current attachments to the 71st Infantry Division resulted in a series of swift marches with considerable 3" firing to assist the infantry to advance through wooded areas and towns. We have taken towns, bridges and dams, knocked out tanks and generally supported every action the infantry regiments participated in. Commendations from the Division and its Regiments are attached hereto.

On order, we have been converted to a Self-Propelled Tank Destroyer Battalion and have activated a Reconnaissance Company. Thus far we have received 11 M-18 Self-Propelled Tank Destroyers.