AFTER ACTION REPORT

643

Tank Destroyer Battalion

MAY 1945

HIT HARD

THE FIRST T.D.'S
"ON THE RHINE"
"ACROSS THE ELBE"
CONTENTS

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Unit Journal
Reports of Tank Destroyer Operations
S - S Reports
Military Government Reports
At the beginning of the period, the battalion was attached to the 83d Infantry Division and the companies were further attached to the three BCT's of the division and assisted in the defense of the Elbe River bridgehead. The battalion was relieved of this mission on the 4th of May at which time the companies moved to assembly areas west of the Elbe River.

On 7th of May, 1945 the battalion was assigned the area vicinity Bramlager, Tanne, Walkenreid in the Herz Mountains for military government. During the period of military government, one platoon of Reconnaissance Company occupied the town of Bannackenstein (50645) to maintain order until military government was established by the 8th Armored Division. On the 15th of May, 1945 the battalion received a TMX, NAM's alerting it for redeployment within 30 days. This was followed by a request for estimate of training situation and training plan to be followed during the period of the alert. The battalion was relieved of its military government duties and moved to vicinity Vienenburg (09476) and began intensive training in preparation for redeployment.

The intensive training program covers a review of basic military subjects, gunnery, driving, and familiarization with Japanese forces and tactics. It has been designed particularly with a view to developing complete interchangeability of destroyer personnel. Ranges and training areas have been laid out.

On 27 May 1945, the battalion moved to Unit Station (03904) via Elberad to prepare for overseas movement under Art V 550 - SOP No 61-550-FK-35D.
BATTLE LESSONS

1. Despite the fact that the war with Germany has been formally ended, there are still some Germans who continue to fight on. This fact makes it essential that all personnel be armed and constantly on the alert.

2. It has been found that identification papers carried by the German civilians are not a positive means of identification since they are very often forged or stolen. It has been found that all SS troopers have their blood type tattooed under the upper portion of the left arm and also have an injection scar on the right breast. High ranking party officials have had a German swastika tattooed behind their left knee.

SECRET
Battalion assigned Ninth U.S. Army, attached XIX Corps and further attached to 83d Infantry Division.

Co A - Attached to 329 RCT.
Co B - Attached to 330 RCT.
Co C - Attached to 331 RCT.
Ron Co - Second Platoon attached to Co A.
Hq Co -

Changes in mission and attachment within battalion during period.

020001 - 1st Ron Platoon attached to Co B.
051600 - Battalion relieved of defensive mission on the Elbe River bridgehead.
051800 - Battalion attached to 329 RCT and relieved of further attachments.
070900 - Battalion relieved attachment XIX Corps and attached to XIII Corps, further attached to 83d Infantry Division and 329 RCT.
071200 - Assigned area for military government vicinity Braunlage, Tanne, Wakenstedt.
080730 - Battalion relieved attachment 329 RCT and attached 453d AAA Bn.
081200 - 3d Platoon Co A attached to Co B.
081200 - One platoon Ron attached to Co B.
090200 - 3d Plt Co A relieved attachment to Co B.
101600 - One Plt Ron relieved attachment to Co B.
181700 - Battalion relieved of military government duties.
181700 - Battalion relieved attachment 453d AAA Bn and attached to 83d Infantry Division.
230430 - Bn relieved attachment to XIII Corps and 83d Infantry Division and attached to XIX Corps.
SECRET

BATTALION COMMANDER
Farr, Wallace F., Lt Col
(1 May to 31 May)
O-291796

BATTALION EXECUTIVE
Caulks, Ira M., Maj
(1 May to 31 May)
O-214191

S-1
Miller, Randall A., 1st Lt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-162229

S-2
Robbins, Lewis P., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-216508

S-3
Lang, Alph W., Maj
(1 May to 31 May)
O-349244

S-4
Burgin, Alexander M., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-409228

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER
Postiglione, Michael, 1st Lt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-162249

MOTOR OFFICER
Sunderland, David W., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-454465

BATTALION SURGEON
Parmalee, George E., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-311128

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
COMMANDING OFFICER
Kreay, Howard S., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-189487

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY
COMMANDING OFFICER
Peterson, James W., 1st Lt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-162244

COMPANY A
COMMANDING OFFICER
Ward, Thomas W., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-168869

COMPANY B
COMMANDING OFFICER
Colt, John B., Capt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-118660

COMPANY C
COMMANDING OFFICER
Naab, Howard S., 1st Lt
(1 May to 31 May)
O-1622209

SECRET
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06100 to 19100 -- Dresden, Germany
19150 to 230430 -- Wiesenburg, Germany
23100 to 312400 -- Bernsdorf, Germany
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