

HEADQUARTERS
645TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 45, U S ARMY

7 March 1944

SUBJECT: Battle Report

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO 464, U S Army (Thru channels)

MAP REFERENCES: Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet #158

PERIOD COVERED: 1 February 1944 to 29 February 1944.

1. The first of February found the entire Battalion under Corps control in the bivouac area in the vicinity of 900228. At 2200 hours, 1 February 1944, Company B moved to the vicinity of 977223, and occupied firing positions along the Mussolini Canal, protecting the Corps right flank. Platoon positions were at 945-240, 003221 and 994182.

2. On the following day, Company A moved to the area at 798268, and bivouaced in the heavy woods along the coast. Reconnaissance was immediately carried out and firing positions were selected and improved. Company B established two OP's across the canal, while Reconnaissance Company set up three at 000150, 004175 and 021221. During the afternoon, the Battalion less Companies A and B, moved to 913210. With the exception of the movement of one section of Company B, and the establishment of the second platoon, Reconnaissance Company at 942288, the 3rd of February was very quiet. The same was true of the fourth, as only minor movements of individual guns and sections were made as reconnaissance and more thorough knowledge of the terrain indicated better firing positions. Company C prepared indirect fire positions in the area at 947326. Two platoons were registered in, adjustment being observed by the 171st Field Artillery Battalion. A total of 25 rounds HE, and 12 rounds smoke was fired; these were the first expended by us on the new beachhead. An OP maintained by Reconnaissance Company was shelled and sustained one casualty.

3. During the following five days, extensive reconnaissance was carried out along the entire front for anti-tank, as well as alternate positions, and routes of ingress. Numerous positions were dug-in and made ready covering all possible approaches. In this interval our principal role became artillery and the following missions were carried out. On 5 February, Company A expended 68 rounds of HE at enemy personnel in buildings at 765330. Hits were observed on the buildings, but effect on personnel was not ascertained. During the night, Company B let loose 318 rounds HE at the road junction near 10862006. These were followed up the next day by 135 rounds from Company A on enemy personnel at 75-23, and 258 rounds from Company B on a road junction at 0272165, the town of LITTORIA, and the watertower at 076152. During the night of 7 and 8 February, Company B put out 778 rounds on road junctions at 088158, 103158 088158, and at LITTORIA. The night of 8 February was very quiet, only 350 rounds interdictory fire by Company B, being placed on the road junction at 051204.

4. At 1200A, 9 February, the Battalion less Company B, was attached to the 45th Infantry Division. Company B remained in attachment to the SSF, occupying fire positions 051204 along the Mussolini Canal.

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DAFLE REPORT (CONT'D)

Once more Company B was the only active unit, putting 200 rounds HE into LITTORIA, and 400 rounds into BORGO ISONZA. Forward observers of the 456th Field Artillery Battalion stated that Company B fire on the nights of 8 and 9 February was very accurate. This unit also experimented with the possibility of using 3 inch ammunition equipped with the M54 fuze. Accurate results and clearly observable bursts were obtained at 10,000 yards, which was the maximum fuze range. Company C was committed for the first time on the beachhead, and occupied platoon positions near 888295, 906284 and 915306, in the area of the 180th Infantry Regiment.

5. Company B opened the 10th of the month with 85 rounds on LITTORIA and BORGO ISONZA, followed up the next day by 350 rounds in the same areas. At 2300 hours, 12 February, Company A relieved Company C, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and was emplaced in the vicinity of 875314, 882310, 865310 and 880298. During the night, Company B again hit LITTORIA with 94 rounds. The 13th of February was uneventful, the only activity being the relief of Company B, by Company C of the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Our unit moved to an assembly area near 8525. The 14th and 15th were quiet. Throughout this period on the beach, Reconnaissance Company had maintained their CP's and had conducted and observed numerous fire missions for the artillery.

6. At 0630 hours, 16 February, the enemy started a determined thrust, which was to continue for four (4) days. Company A saw little action on the initial day, although the Commanding Officer, Company A, was very industrious in adjusting artillery fire. All platoons were subjected to continuous shelling during the entire night.

7. In Company B, at 0900 hours, the first platoon, less security section, moved to the vicinity of 863297 and went into position on the east-west road, near some farm houses. Around 1100 hours, the second platoon, less security section, was alerted and moved into position around 863286, the general vicinity of the underpass. The second platoon was later recalled to an assembly area, the third platoon remained in assembly area. At approximately 2100 hours, one destroyer of the first platoon struck a mine and was almost immediately taken under fire by enemy artillery and was set on fire. All members of the crew escaped unharmed. Leaving one destroyer in position at 863292, the first platoon commander proceeded north along the main Anzio road, and was putting his two remaining destroyers into position near the railroad station 86202995, when it was discovered that enemy infantry had infiltrated. The platoon commander's $\frac{1}{2}$ ton command car would not start, so he ordered it to be run over by an M-10 to prevent it falling into enemy hands. The two destroyers attempted to withdraw, proceeding south, west of the railroad. Both vehicles bogged down and were abandoned. All crew members of both vehicles escaped. The C.P. area was taken under enemy artillery fire, this date, and one 6 x 6 ammunition truck was hit and set afire. The fire was extinguished with a loss of four rounds of HE ammunition. The truck was salvaged.

8. The second platoon of Company C was the only unit to see action on the initial day of the attack. They engaged and destroyed two (2) Mark VI tanks and a self-propelled gun, possibly a Ferdinand, near 877330. All of the enemy vehicles were set afire.

BATTLE REPORT (CONT'D)

9. At dawn on the 17th, the first platoon of Company A was subjected to a terrific bombardment at their positions near 881311. At 0900 hours, one section opened fire on a Mark IV tank and set it on fire. Then the platoon opened up on enemy mortars, infantry, and strong points with good results. One destroyer was hit during the afternoon. The second platoon sighted a Mark III tank, accompanied by infantry near 851317, which they immediately destroyed, forcing the riflemen to be dispersed. One M-10 was hit and burned in this unit. Later in the day, this platoon engaged five (5) enemy tanks, three (3) Mark VI's and two (2) Mark IV tanks, destroying two (2) Mark VI tanks and forcing the remainder to withdraw. One destroyer was hit in one motor and sent to the rear. Throughout the day, the unit was subjected to machine gun and small arms fire, and retaliated successfully with their .50 caliber machine guns. In action with six enemy tanks near 854326 at 1000 hours on this day, the third platoon hit two of the enemy vehicle's, one of which burned. One M-10 caught fire and burned while being evacuated.

10. At approximately 0730 hours, the second platoon, Company B, was called back to their previous position at 863286. The third platoon was still in assembly area. The first platoon, Company B, sighted an enemy Mark VI tank and expended seven rounds HE and 13 rounds APC. The tank was probably knocked out. The second platoon, Company B, expended five rounds HE and 15 rounds of APC on enemy tanks. Results unknown.

11. On the morning of the 17th, the first platoon of Company C was in position near 915307, the second platoon near 894304, while the third platoon was at 916309. The second platoon was the only unit to see action on this date, engaging two (2) Mark VI tanks, spotted at 883318. Both vehicles were destroyed, although only one burned. The action was completed by 1200 hours. Shortly thereafter, a Mark IV tank was destroyed by burning at 864314, and at 1300 hours, two more of Jerry's Tigers were fired upon and wrecked. The latter action was at 864318. At this stage the destroyers had to be abandoned as our friendly infantry had withdrawn to the rear of them. The vehicles were immobilized before abandonment.

12. On the third day of the attack, the first section of Company A destroyed a Mark IV tank, but lost an M-10 due to artillery fire during the afternoon. At 1700 hours, the second platoon lost a destroyer, which received a direct hit from an enemy mortar. The third platoon engaged four (4) Mark IV tanks at 863300 and destroyed one, disabling another. One of our guns was disabled at this time and subsequently abandoned, due to a building collapsing on it. Shortly before noon, two additional Mark VI tanks were engaged and knocked out near 865305. An enemy mortar was destroyed at 868300. That evening all guns had to be abandoned as our front lines had withdrawn to the beachhead line, and avenue of escape for Company A had been cut by the enemy. During the day, the Commanding Officer, Company A, had observed and conducted numerous missions for the artillery and as a result of his work reported that eleven (11) tanks, one (1) self-propelled gun, two (2) vehicles, and three (3) possible additional tanks were knocked out.

13. At approximately 1400 hours, the third platoon, Company B, left assembly area to take up position in vicinity of 860286, near the underpass. At the request of our infantry, one destroyer of the second platoon brought fire on the house at 863287. Exact results are not known as the house is still in enemy territory. However, it is definitely known that there were enemy troops in the house, as they were firing on our infantry.

BATTLE REPORT (CONT'D)

The fire was observed to be extremely accurate, and numerous casualties must have been suffered. 17 rounds of HE were expended. Word of twelve enemy tanks proceeding south on the main Anzio road was received, and the platoon commander of the second platoon maneuvered two destroyers to take them under fire, himself riding in one. Three enemy tanks were definitely destroyed. The M-10, in which the platoon commander was riding, was knocked out, but later recovered. 44 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of APC were expended. At approximately 2200 hours, a mortar shell struck a third platoon M-10. The vehicle was salvaged. The remaining first and second platoon vehicles were reorganized and went into position in the general vicinity.

14. At approximately 1200 hours, the first section of Company C sighted five Mark VI tanks at 900295. Two tanks were destroyed and the remainder retired after knocking out one M-10. In the early afternoon, another Mark VI was lost by the enemy due to action by this unit. During the early morning of 18 February, the men of the second platoon returned to their guns, but as the infantry had withdrawn again, they were forced to render the weapons useless and retire. They reorganized as a rifle platoon and reinforced the infantry line in that sector. The third platoon saw no action on this date.

15. On 19 February, Company A had only three destroyers ready for action. They had been called back to their company C.P. area as a Battalion reserve and were committed again at 1630 hours at the road junction, 922287, in support of Company C.

16. At approximately 0500 hours, the third platoon, Company B, moved into position behind houses in the vicinity of 846299. At 2100 hours, the enemy laid a heavy mortar barrage on these buildings, causing them to collapse, and completely burying two destroyers and crews. All vehicles were recovered. While withdrawing from this position, a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton vehicle went over an embankment. The vehicle was not recovered.

17. The third platoon of Company C, was the only platoon to see action on 19 February. They destroyed three (3) Mark VI tanks at 905317, and three additional plus one possible at 904324.

18. The excessive number of L-10's lost during these days, were caused by the infantry withdrawing without notifying the supporting platoons. The nature of the terrain and the marshy character of the ground necessitated much time and labor in extricating a destroyer, once it had occupied a position. Due to the rapid retirement of our troops and equal rapidity of the German thrust, these vehicles could not be saved.

19. During the night 21 February, Company A, plus the second platoon, Company C, relieved Company C and attached platoon of the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The attached platoon was then released to its parent unit, and Company C was placed in Battalion reserve, vicinity of 913210. Company B moved one platoon vicinity of 885275, leaving six (6) guns in reserve at the Company C.P., near 875229. The 22nd and 23rd of February were uneventful, the only movement being of two (2) guns to the vicinity 925276, to utilize a better field of fire. All companies and OP's on the line were remaining alert but contact with the enemy was not made.

BATTLE REPORT (CONT'D)

20. The remainder of the month was notably on our front for the seemingly deceptive quietness. The only movements within the Battalion were in making reliefs, one of which was accomplished on the 25th, when personnel from the first platoon, Company B, and the first and third platoons, Company C, replaced men of Company A. This change was made in men only, the guns being taken over by the new crews.

21. On 29 February, the last day of the month, another change was completed by gun crews of the first and third platoons, Company C, and second platoon, Company B, taking over from Company A, in the sector of the 180th Infantry Regiment. At 0200 hours, Company B moved two guns to prepared dug-in positions at 880278.

22. During the month of February, the combat efficiency of the battalion was superior, the morale of the men was excellent, and supply of the battalion was good.

23. The following changes in assignments and duties of officers were directed: On 5 February, Captain LEROY E. SCHILLER, Dental Officer joined the Battalion. On 6 February, Lt. PETER E. PRATT took over the position of S-1; Lt. VERNON S. SMELTZER assumed the duties of Liaison Officer; Lt. CHESTER P. IRBY JR. was assigned to Company C, as Executive Officer; Lt. Bernard Sachs took over the command of Reconnaissance Company; and Lt. WILLIAM D. MOSES assumed command of Headquarters Company.

24. During the month of February, this Battalion received its first group of casualties on a large scale (see attached Battle Casualty Report). The forwarding of Battle Casualty Reports to the Battalion was expedited by the Companies in every case. The major difficulty in consolidating Battle Casualty lists was caused by men being evacuated in many cases through British hospitals, who were necessarily slow in forwarding notification to this Headquarters, due to their large number of patients.

25. As the Personnel Section has been located at VARIANO, ITALY, the ensuing delay of five day courier service caused some errors in consolidated Morning Reports, but this situation has been rectified whenever errors appeared.

26. Administrative details have not been normal, nevertheless, no serious complications have arisen.

Edward L. Austin
EDWARD L. AUSTIN
Major, Field Artillery
Commanding

Annex "A" Battle Casualty Summary
Annex "B" Battle Report Overlay
3 Incls
Intelligence Summary
Operation Journals
(1) Messages.

BATTLE CASUALTY SUMMARY FOR PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 1944
TO 29 FEBRUARY 1944 INCL.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>CO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Donald W. Spring	36053228	Sgt.	Rcn. Co	4 Feb	Killed in action
Bertram C. Fowble	38018177	Sgt.	Co. E	13 Feb	Wounded
Walter J. Walzer	12042366	Cpl.	Hq. Co.	14 Feb	Wounded
Robert F. Briscoe	12079167	PFC	Co. A	14 Feb	Wounded
Herman E. Schmidt	33156363	PFC	Co. A	14 Feb	Wounded
Franklin T. Archambault	35111537	Sgt.	Co. A	14 Feb	Wounded
Fred Kuchala	33459591	Pvt.	Co. C	16 Feb	Wounded
Robert L. Kruger	20831100	Sgt.	Co. C	16 Feb	Wounded
Carl W. Brooks	33522676	Pvt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Killed in action
J.L. Harvey	34176801	Cpl.	Co. B	16 Feb	Wounded
Walter Lykosh	32236472	T/5	Co. C	16 Feb	Killed in action
Charles H.G. Wilson	32104312	Sgt.	Co. C	16 Feb	Wounded
Thomas McHugh	32261377	Sgt.	Rcn. Co	16 Feb	Wounded
Edward J. Blayne	35111885	PFC	Rcn. Co	16 Feb	Wounded
George T. Butler	37413444	Pvt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
James A. Marlar	38018108	Sgt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Cecil H. Reed	20833577	S/Sgt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Harold R. Burgess	35292134	Sgt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Clyde E. Delaney	35111492	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
George R. Higgins	35112005	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Louis J. Ersick	33167396	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Saul Francisco	31065195	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Edward J. Hamilton	31059837	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Robert H. Gum	35292098	T/5	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Joseph A. Calavenna	36560565	Pvt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
William A. Cole	38001390	S/Sgt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Justin I. Rider	38018119	Sgt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Missing in action
Harold W. Bailey	35292412	T/5	Co. A	17 Feb	Missing in action
Emanuel LoPresti	32262921	Pvt.	Co. C	17 Feb	Missing in action
Frank C. Sacco	32263833	PFC	Co. C	17 Feb	Missing in action
Robert E. Hayes	20408738	T/5	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Stanley L. Sweeney	12079190	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Edward N. Melott	35292399	Pvt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Howard C. Taylor	35292119	PFC	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
William A. Broeking	36303867	Sgt.	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Deward W. Floyd	38017690	Sgt.	Co. C	17 Feb	Wounded
William T. Day	15101364	T/5	Co. A	17 Feb	Wounded
Warren C. Burk	38018151	Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Edward E. Tousignant	36225499	S/Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Oben E. Minyard	38018200	PFC	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
LeRoy J. Boyer	35111730	T/5	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Angelo Petrucci	32263863	PFC	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Virgil Phillips	35291889	Cpl.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Robert O. Martin	38017827	Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Charles F. Shockley	38018967	Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Alphonse Margiotta	33178109	Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Henry C. Samuelson	37177401	Pvt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded

BATTLE CASUALTY SUMMARY (CONT'D)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>CO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
John O. Fratchard	38018156	S/Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Harry A. Smith	13077408	T/5	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
James E. Boyd	35292266	T/5	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Philip A. Doherty	01167889	1st Lt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Cyrus C. Parsons	35292411	T/5	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Bertram O. Fowble	38018177	Sgt.	Co. B	18 Feb	Wounded
Henry Lowenthal Jr.	33049362	Pvt.	Rcn. Co.	18 Feb	Wounded
William N. Patterson	20834555	PFC	Med. Det.	19 Feb	Wounded
Charles W. Lydiard	01165900	Capt.	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
Thurston N. Ayscue	34176691	T/5	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
Charles J. Brogan	01822665	1st Lt.	Co. A	19 Feb	Killed in action
William J. Abrams	01822935	2nd Lt.	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
George T. Senter	36303603	S/Sgt.	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
Benjamin B. Anderson	35169046	Sgt.	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
George I. Paradis	31107332	T/5	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
Edward C. Sartin	35043944	T/5	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
Stanley Warnela	33178055	T/5	Co. A	19 Feb	Wounded
Joe T. Carr	0418727	Capt.	Co. C	19 Feb	Wounded
Edward B. Peplowski	33276264	Cpl.	Co. C	20 Feb	Killed in action
Thomas M. Pierce	20832103	S/Sgt.	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
Gordon Sousa	11064948	T/4	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
Joe T. Carr	0418727	Capt.	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
John E. Mann	33161313	Pvt.	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
Howard C. Friend	35292087	Pvt.	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
John W. McPhail	38017669	PFC	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
Cary L. Baumwart	20830485	T/5	Co. C	20 Feb	Wounded
Joe Goryl P.	37087381	PFC	Rcn. Co.	20 Feb	Wounded
Leonard L. Flagler	20833402	T/Sgt.	Hq. Co.	21 Feb	Killed in action
Bernard D. Palecki	33178032	PFC	Hq. Co.	21 Feb	Killed in action
Lanier J. Nickel	13071964	PFC	Co. C	21 Feb	Wounded
Albert M. Pavlina	35111726	PFC	Co. C	21 Feb	Wounded
Lawrence W. Rhoads	35291840	Sgt.	Co. C	21 Feb	Wounded
Peter P. Casgellano	01103768	PFC	Co. C	21 Feb	Wounded
Fred A. Hurdman	01823004	1st Lt.	Co. C	21 Feb	Wounded
Frank H. Hrmodka	37119317	Sgt.	Co. A	22 Feb	Wounded

ANNEX "A"

RESTRICTED

**HEADQUARTERSB
645TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

APO 45, U. S. Army
1 March 1944

**SUBJECT: Intelligence Summary, Supported Units Sector(45 Div, SSf, VI Corps),
31 January to 29 February 1944.
Annex to Battle Report for February 1944.
Maps: Italy: Sheet 158; I, II, III, IV; 1/50,000.**

PART I - 31 Jan to 29 Feb. 1944 Incl.

By front lines: 31 Jan- 7730-8231-8433-8837-8937-9433-9632-0332-0526-0313. On the 2 Feb, strong attack in British sector changed their lined to 899341, 895348, 898347. In the 3rd Div sector, the ey surrounded 2 Ranger Bns who had infiltrated to CISTERNA reducing that sector to 9632-976324-978322-996323-0032-014320-020312-034300 and SW along Fso di Cisterna to Mussolini Canal. British were again attacked on 4 Feb and dents were made in their line. On 5 Feb, lines were 888342-880348-865347. On the 9 Feb, British were attacked by 12 to 15 Bns and were forced to withdraw. 10 Feb found their lines, 832323-864327-890325-894316-918325. No other changes in other sectors for period.

Line-up of enemy forces oppsing Beachhead: 31 Jan- HG Pz Div, 29 PGD, 3 PGD, less one CT, 26 Pz Div, less one CT and Arty, one CT of the 90 PGD, 15 PGD (104 PGR), 4 Para Regt. Capable of reinforcing front: Balance of 90 PGD on 5th Army front, balance of 15 PGD, 3 PGD, 26 PGD, 356th Inf Div; all units equal about 4 Divisions. Reserves in sector: 735 IR of 715 Inf Div, 65 Inf Div, 145 IR.

Disposition of ey units: From the coast to 8433: Battle Group Gerlicke; one Bn, 129 PGR, II Bn, 11 Para Regt, one para assault Bn, small armored unit, 8433- N-S road 9135; I and II Bns, 29 PGR, armor and elements of 3 PGD Arty. 9135-9732; One Bn, 104 PGR, one Bn, 1 Para Regt. 9732 SE and S to Coast- II Bn, 1st HG Regt, 2nd HG Regt and HG Rcn Bn in contact, supported by elements of I Bn, HG Tank Regt.

Other Identifications: 1 Feb- 7 Jaeger Bn. 2 Feb- In 3rd Div Sector- 9 and 67 PGRs (26 Pz Div), 735 IR (715 Inf Div), Para Lehr Bn(Parachute Training Bn). 3 Feb- 157 Sector(coast)- 4 Para Div(Stuem Regt, I Bn 10 Para Regt, II Bn 11 Para Regt), one Bn 145 IR. 4 Feb, vic 9931-7 Coy, 26 Pz Regt. Vic 8837 to 8836- I and II Bns, 104 IR, II Bn 725 IR. 5 Feb, British Sector- II Bn 200 PGR, II Bn 145 IR.

PART II - 10 Feb to 19 Feb Incl.

a. 10 Feb to 15 Feb- During this period, ey built up his forces for an attack. There was an increase in vehicular traffic along entire front. On 12 Feb, ey pressure forced us to withdraw from Factory area. Ey strength oppsing us was estimated to be 17,000 combat troops (50 Bns) and 225-250 tanks. Arty- 11 heavy batteries, 31 medium batteries and 50 light batteries.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Summary, etc. (continued).

RESTRICTED

b. 16 Feb to 19 Feb incl: 16 Feb- Following arty preparation from 0630A to 0745A, the ey attacked in force, with infantry supported by tanks; main effort S along ALBANO-ANZIO road coordinated with attacks SE in 8931, SE in 8732 and S an 8932 grid squares and a diversionary attack launched by an estimated two companies, SW in 9132 grid square. Ey renewed the attack on 17 Feb and again on 18 Feb and again on 19 Feb on which date their advance was halted. For extent of daily gains, see attached overlay #2. For details of daily action, see G-2 Periodic reports, Hq, 45 Div, dated 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Feb 1944. For use of enemy armor, see report, this Hq, 'Ey Armor in 45 Div Sector from 16 Feb to 18 Feb incl', dated 3 March 1944.

Units attacking: 16 Feb; on the left (257 Sector) - II Bn, 10 Para Regt, III Bn, Lehr Regt, I Bn, 11 Para Regt, II Bn, 165 PGR, II Bn, 735 IR. In Center (179 Sector)- I and III Bns, 735 IR, 715 Eng Bn and I Bn, 725 IR. On the right(180 Sector)- II Bn 725 IR, 3rd Eng Bn, II Bn 104 IR, II Bn 194 IR, II Bn 1028. These were elements of the 4 Para Div, 65 Inf Div, 715 Inf Div, 3rd PGD, 114 Lt. Inf Div. Armor used was not identified. 17 Feb; left to right- II Bn, 10 Para Regt, I and II Bns 145 IR, 147 IR, Lehr Regt, 67 PGR, 741, 721 and 725 IRs, 735 IR and II Bn 1028. 18 Feb; 67 PGR in center only new contact. 19 Feb; only new contacts- I, II and III Bns of 15 PGR NE of overpass.

PART III - 20 Feb to 29 Feb incl.

20 Feb; Ey made an attempt in 180th sector preceded by arty preparation. S/A firefight developed lasting from 1830A to 2045A. 21 Feb; Ey continued infiltration, had strongpoints on road N of overpass well established. The ey continued its' probing activities for the remainder of the period, but there was no change in the lines except the closing of the pocket in which the 2d Bn, 157 Inf was caught, when they withdrew on 24, 25 Feb. On 29 Feb, ey attacked in force on the 3rd Division's left, but made no gains and suffered many casualties under our prepared defense fires and air assaults.

Units opposing. 20 Feb; left to right- 147 IR, 145 IR, one Bn 67 PGR, 15 (-) PGR, 741 IR, I Bn 71 PGR, 721 IR, 735 IR, 725 IR, II Bn 1028. 21 Feb; left to right- 147 IR, 145 IR, I Bn 9 PGR, 67 PGR, 15 PGR, 309 IR, 735 IR, one Bn 71 PGR, 725 IR, 741 IR, 114 Rcn Bn, HG Rcn Bn, II Bn 1028. 22 Feb; left to right(reduced Division front, see overlay #3)- I Bn 71 PGR, 725 IR, III Bn, 741 IR, 141 Rcn Bn, 721 IR, 735 IR, II Bn 1028. 23 Feb; No change. 24 to 28 Feb incl, No change. 29 Feb; left to right- I Bn, 71 PGR, 125 PGR, III Bn 741 IR, 129 Rcn Bn, 721 IR.

GENERAL

METHODS: a. Attack- Ey would infiltrate at night attempting to reach limited objectives in our lines, then in the morning, armor and infantry would try to establish those points reached, while the infiltrating parties would attempt to harass our troops from within and the rear.

REC

SUBJECT: Intelligence Summary etc. (continued)

b. Defensive Organization- Defensive areas were usually held by outposts, patrols, mtzd patrols, flak wagons. Strong points were usually established around buildings and guns dug in.

ARTILLERY: Ey used 170 mm guns to harass the ports of ANZIC and NETTUNO and the supply artery on the beach. Mortars and all caliber arty, including tanks, SF and AA guns were employed against front line troops. Mediums and heavies were used for counterbattery after adjustment with light caliber. Air bursts were often used for adjustment and the ey was quick in delivering concentrations after adjustment. AIR: During the daylight hours, our air kept ey activity down to occasional sneak forays. During the hours of night, ey succeeded to some extent, in ineffectuating our Radar and Beaufighters by use of "window" and jamming, and made some penetration. Personnel bombs were used extensively thruout the Beachhead, concentrations being on port facilities, bivouac areas, arty positions and front line troops. Ey would send planes over one at a time and keep them maneuvering for as long as possible to silence our artillery by their mere presence. Activity was greatest on nights before enemy attacks and was coordinated during attacks with artillery and armor.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORALE AND HUMOR: A pigeon returned to the II Corps, had evidently been "captured" during his trip. A message "from the German forces" was found on him saying "We are returning herewith a captured pigeon as we have plenty of food."

GOLIATH: Reported being used in the ANZIC Beachhead, is this tracked radio-controlled mine called the "Goliath". It carries a charge of 1000 lbs, which is set off by remote control.

FLASH REDUCER CHARGE: A flash reducer charge has been introduced for the German 81 mm Mortar when firing in dusk or darkness. This charge which is fastened around the tail of the shell is called "Kartuschlage".

PYROTECHNICS: White Flare - We are here, White Three Times - Advance your fire(arty), Green - ey is attacking, Blue or Violet - armored attack.

For the Commanding Officers

[Handwritten Signature]
L. S. LEGENDRE, JR.

Captain, F. A.

S - 2

HEADQUARTERS
645TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

RES

APO 45, U S Army
3 March 1944

SUBJECT: Corrected Data of Enemy Materiel Destroyed by this Battalion on this Beach-head to date.

TO :	<u>MK VI</u>	<u>MK IV</u>	<u>MK III</u>	<u>SP</u>	<u>PERS CAR.</u>	<u>MORTAR</u>
1. A Co:	3(+ 1 poss)	3	3(+ 1 poss)		1	2
B Co:	3(" 2 poss.)					
C Co:	8(" 1 poss.)	5(+ 4 poss.)		1	1	
TOTAL	14(+ 4 poss.)	8(+ 4 poss.)	3(+ 1 poss)	1	2	2

GRAND

TOTAL: 25 enemy tanks knocked out or destroyed
 9 enemy tanks either damaged or knocked out and destroyed possibly.
 1 SP gun knocked out -(Ferdinand?)
 2 Mortars destroyed
 2 Personnel Carriers knocked out

See attached sheets and master questionnaire for detailed data on each item.

2. In addition to above, Capt Lydiard, the CO of Co A, this unit, observed for artillery fire and destroyed the following:

17 February 1944: 1 enemy tank via 854326
 3 enemy tanks via 8832
 1 MK VI via 854326
 2 enemy vehicles via 859331
 1 MK III via 818318
 A possible 3 enemy tanks via 877323
 18 February 1944 1 SP gun via 877313
 4 enemy tanks via 885326

For the Commanding Officer:

JAMES H. LEGENDRE JR.
Capt FA
S-2

"A" Company, 645th TD Bn.

PROBABLE

VOLNER, Clarence O. Sgt.
Destroyer Commander, 1st Plt.

1. One MK. IV
2. Burned
3. Unobserved
4. 17th Feb. '44 (869914)
5. 4,000 yds.
6. 8 rds. HE
7. Broadside
8. Unobserved
9. In the side and rear
10. Poor
11. Stationary
12. On a road
13. No
14. No
15. No
16. Yes. Artillery
17. Level open fields
18. Terrain level, no defilade

BROCKING, William Sgt.
Destroyer Commander, 3rd Plt.

1. Personnel Carrier
2. Stay put
3. Scattered
4. 17th Feb. '44
5. 1900 yds.
6. One HE, One AP
7. Broadside
8. Side of carriage
9. -----
10. Poor, Smokey
11. Stationary
12. In a field
13. Yes
14. No
15. No
16. Yes. From Factory area
17. Rolling
18. Behind building

BROCKING, William Sgt.
Destroyer Commander

- 3d Platoon
1. MK VI (probable)
 2. Stay put
 3. -----
 4. 18th Feb. '44
 5. 1100 yds.
 6. 2 AP, 2 HE
 7. Broadside
 8. On tracks
 9. -----
 10. Smokey
 11. Moving
 12. On a road
 13. Yes
 14. Yes. At us
 15. Artillery
 16. Yes. From locality of ey. tk.
 17. Level
 18. Hard ground by a house

"A" Company, 645th TD Bn.

LETTICREW, Vance E. Cpl
1st Plt., Destroyer Commander

1. MK VI
2. Stay put
3. -----
4. 17th Feb. '44 (891-319)
5. 2,000 yds.
6. 2 MK, 2 AFC, and 1 AFC
7. Oblique
8. on track, turret
9. off in track
10. Good
11. Moving
12. on road
13. Yes
14. Yes
15. No
16. Yes. from tk. and artillery
17. Rolling
18. on crest of small rise, road hard.

LETTICREW, Vance E. Cpl.
1st Plt., Destroyer Commander

1. MK III and MK IV
2. MK IV burned, and MK III blew up
- 3/ -----
4. 18th Feb. '44 (891317)
5. 1500
6. 40 rds., combination of AP, AFC, HE
7. -----
8. -----
9. -----
10. Good
11. Stationary
12. In building
13. -----
14. Yes
15. No
16. Artillery
17. Rolling
18. On crest of small rise, on road

REMARKS: These tanks were fired on by direction of the Infantry and destruction was reported and confirmed by the Infantry.

11. [Name], Jack W., 2d Lt.
Platoon leader, 2d platoon
1. MK III
 2. Burn
 3. Did not get out
 4. 17th Feb. '44 (857317)
 5. 350-400 yds.
 6. 5 HE, 1 AP
 7. Broadside
 8. Side, below turret
 9. The one rd. that hit him broadside
 10. Very cloudy and smoky
 11. Moving
 12. In a field
 13. Yes
 14. No
 15. No
 16. Yes, S/A, anti-tank or tank; S/A from Infantry, other unknown
 17. A road, then a draw and tank was on forward slope of hill on other side of draw.
 18. On a road in the open.
- REMARKS: Tanks bring Inf. forward under concealment as much as possible then move back to a firing position. They do not go to far forward though.

11. [Name], Jack W., 2d Lt.
Platoon leader, 2d platoon
1. MK VI
 2. Burn
 3. Burned
 4. 17th Feb. '44 (857317)
 5. 350-400 yds
 6. 1 AF, 4 HE, 1 AP, 2 APC
 7. Broadside
 8. Turret
 9. 1st AP stopped him, don't know what burned him.
 10. Smoky and cloudy
 11. Moving
 12. In a field
 13. No
 14. No
 15. No
 16. Yes. S/A, MG and AT or tank
 17. A road, then a draw and tank on forward slope of hill on other side of draw.
- REMARKS: Shot out a mortar and Inf. with HE and 50 Cal. MG

11. [Name], Jack W., 2d Lt.
Platoon leader, 2d platoon.
1. MK VI
 2. Burn
 3. Two got out but Sgt. Lemo stopped them with the 50 cal. MG
 4. 17th Feb. '44 (857-317)
 5. 350 to 400 yds.
 6. 6 HE, 1 AF, 3 APC
 7. Broadside
 8. Side, below turret.
 9. Don't know as had to put so many in him.
 10. Very smoky
 11. Moving in a group
 12. In a field
 13. No
 14. No
 15. No
 16. Yes. S/A, A.T. and Tank, S/A from Inf., other unknown
 17. A road, then a draw, tk was on forward slope on other side of draw.
 18. On a road in the open.
- REMARKS: Same as above.

- LYDLAND, C.W. Capt. For Sgt. RYDER
CO "A" Co. gun commander, 3d Plt.
1. MK III burned, MK IV burned, MKIII (loss.)
 2. Two burned
 3. They burned in two
 4. 17th Feb. (44 (864-305)
 5. 1100 yds.
 6. 10 rds: APC, 50 HE, (see remarks)
 7. -----
 8. Broadside
 9. -----
 10. Excellent
 11. Stationary
 12. In a building
 13. Yes. Much
 14. Yes
 15. No
 16. Yes. Arty. and S/A fire immed. front
 17. Rolling
 18. Behind building
- REMARKS: Tanks in and between buildings. Levelled buildings direct hits on all tanks. Impossible to tell what parts or what shots finished them as it was necessary to destroy buildings around them. Mortar destroyed at (867302), 4 HE, 900 yds

RESTRICTED

TOUSIGNANT, E. S/Sgt.
Platoon Sgt., 2d Platoon

1. Three MK VI's
2. Stayed put
3. None bailed out
4. Feb. 18th, '44 1600A (862-291)
5. 800 yds.
6. Shell HE, FG, 8 rds. per tank
7. Both head-on and broadside.
8. Turret, side and bogies
9. Bogies and side
10. Good
11. Moving
12. On a road
13. Not with tanks, but stationed near tanks in a field.
14. One fired a few rds.
15. No
16. Yes, Tk. fire, Mortar fire, arty fire.
17. Flat, soft terrain, No obstruction.
18. On road. Hill Defilade.

REMARKS: Three MK VI's coming up road towards by-pass, interval between them of approx. 100 yds. We opened fire on first tank, knocked out while broadside in road, opened fire on 2d tank which pulled in behind house out of view. Third tank came down road, fired on him knocking him out broadside in road, blocking road. In the meantime second tank behind house turned around, started back north towards their lines, got out in the open and we knocked them out.

TOUSIGNANT, E. S/Sgt.
Platoon Sgt., 2d Platoon

1. One MK VI (probable)
2. Moved behind house, stayed put.
3. Unable to observe
4. Feb. 17th '44, 1400A Coord. (871291)
5. 2000 yds.
6. Shell, AT, 1 rd.; HE FG, 19 rds.
7. Oblique.
8. Side and turret.
9. Unable to determine due to poor visibility.
10. Poor
11. Moving
12. On a road
13. No
14. Yes
15. Yes, Two M-4s
16. Yes, Mortar and arty. fire.
17. Rolling terrain
18. In behind house.

REMARKS: Ry. Tk. was travelling south on main road towards our lines when fired upon he turned back toward his lines. Was hit pulled in behind house there was arty. action which threw up smoke and dirt obscuring our view.

AVANT, ROGER E. S/Sgt.
Platoon Sgt., 1st Platoon

1. MK VI (one) damaged.
2. Stay put
3. Abandoned vehicle
4. Feb. 28th, '44, 1430A Coord. (864-295)
5. 1100 yds.
6. Shell HE, FG and Delayed, 7 rds. AIG-DEF, 19 rds.
7. Broadside
8. Side and Bogies.
9. Hit on sprocket wheel
10. Poor
11. Moving
12. On road
13. Believe not
14. Yes, at M-4s
15. Yes, M-4
16. Yes, from cy. AT Gun
17. Level soft ground, no vegetation
18. On a road, Pulled out from house position of cover to fire position.

REMARKS: Apparently the heavy tank (MK VI) came out to draw fire and incidentally knocked out M-4s in vicinity. His approach covered by AT Guns which we believe to have been a ground towed gun.

LOWE, John Sgt.
 Gun Commander, 9d Plt.

1. MK IV (damaged or probable)
2. Stayed put
3. Could not see as they put out smoke shells.
4. 18th Feb.
5. 2500 yds.
6. Don't know.
7. Broadside
8. Could not tell
9. -----
10. Poor
11. Was moving and when firing, stopped.
12. In a field
13. No
14. Yes
15. Sgt. Frye later fired on them
16. Yes
17. Foggy
18. Fair

LOWE, John Sgt.

1. MK IV
2. Stayed put
3. Could not see
4. 18th or Feb.
5. 2000 yds.
6. Do not know
7. Broadside
8. Do not know
9. Do not know
10. Poor
11. Stationary
12. Between buildings and later moved out in the field.
13. Could not see
14. Yes
15. Do not know
16. Yes. From their tks and arty.
17. Poor
18. Poor to fair.

LOWE, John, Sgt.

1. MK IV
2. Stay put
3. All bailed out and later tried to strip it.
4. 18th or 19th Feb.
5. 2,000 yds.
6. Do not know
7. Head on
8. Do not know
9. Do not know
10. Poor
11. Stationary
12. Between buildings
13. Yes. Behind the tanks
14. Yes. At us
15. Our arty fired after us
16. Yes
17. Poor
18. Fair

REMARKS: Our delayed HE were glancing off the heavy tks causing air-bursts

RHOADS, Laurence W., Sgt
 Gun Commander, 3rd Platoon

1. MK VI hit probable damaged
2. Moved out possibly, too dark for definite vision.
3. Did not see them
4. 18th Feb. '44
5. 3,000 yds.
6. 2 AP first, 5 HE
7. Oblique
8. Side and motor end
9. Hit in motor end, most damaged
10. Very poor, nearly zero
11. In column
12. On a road
13. Inf. behind them several hundred yds.
14. 4 were firing at friendly Inf., other two were covering.
15. Artillery
16. Definitely yes. Two leading tanks
17. Very flat
18. Nearly impossible to travel off roads for heavy vehicles.

REMARKS: Usually in group. Never exposed the rear. Front always toward the enemy. Tank would sit in exposed open to draw fire. After we exposed our position by firing, ey. kept building covered by firing on both exposed ends, thus attempting to prohibit our pulling out to fire on them.

RESTRICTED

#C" Co., 645th TD Bn

Lt. John Sgt
Destroyer Commander
2d Plt.

1. Ferdinand knocked out
2. 1st platoon
3. 16 Feb 74 878325
- 4.
5. 2000 gas
6. 4 D and 3 H
7. 1st platoon
8. 1st platoon
9. 1st platoon
10. 1st platoon
11. 1st platoon
12. 1st platoon
13. 1st platoon
14. 1st platoon
15. 1st platoon
16. 1st platoon
17. 1st platoon
18. 1st platoon
19. 1st platoon
20. 1st platoon

... on
... to leave.
... at northeast of the factory in column moving south.
... at this time was poor. Column stopped and first tank started firing, to the
... improved and the first tank was fired on. Hit tank on third rd. D
... after that. 6 and 7th rds were hit direct hit. The four other tanks in
... started to withdraw, to north of factory. Fire was directed on third
... as it presented best target. The tank was knocked out at 878325 and
... at 1200 hr 17 Feb.

RESTRICTED

"B" Co, 125 F D Bn

- WALKER, Sgt
 Destroyer Commander
 2d Platoon
1. Mk VI
 2. Stay put
 3. -----
 4. 17 Feb (864312)
 5. 3000 yds.
 6. 12 rds APC
 7. Oblique
 8. Hull
 9. Gun Rd
 10. Good
 11. Moving
 12. On a road
 13. Yes
 14. No
 15. No
 16. Yes, from Factory
 17. Open-flat
 18. Buggy

Remarks: The tk was attempting to
 hit draw and was hit when moving into
 a parallel position. The tk was on an in-
 cline and capsized. 5 or 6 rds fired on
 it after it capsized.

- WALKER, John Sgt
 Destroyer Commander
 2d platoon
1. Knocked out Mk VI
 2. Stay put
 3. *****
 4. 16 Feb 1630 hrs.
 5. 3200 yds
 6. 11 APC and 3 HE
 7. Broadside
 8. Hull
 9. Stopped him with 7th or 8th rd
 10. Fair
 11. Moving
 12. On a road
 13. No
 14. No
 15. No
 16. No
 17. Open flat
 18. Buggy, veh. unable to move

Remarks: This tk was third in column and
 started to withdraw when the first tk was
 fired on. It was hit approximately 877330.
 Tk still there next day at 1200 hrs.

- WALKER, John Sgt
 Destroyer Commander
 2d Platoon
1. Mk VI knocked out
 2. Stay put
 3. *****
 4. 16 Feb
 5. 3000 yds
 6. 2 APC and 8 HE
 7. Oblique
 8. Turret and hull
 9. 5 or 6 in hull stopped this
 10. Fair
 11. Moving
 12. On a road
 13. No
 14. No
 15. No
 16. Yes, unknown
 17. Open, clear
 18. Buggy, vehicle stuck

Remarks: This tk was 2nd in column and
 started to turn around when 1st tk was
 hit. When fired on, it was almost direct
 ly concealed by a knocked out Sherman.
 It started N and was hit on 4th rd.
 Stopped and bucked into cover on Sherman.
 Started out again and was hit again and
 had not moved, 1200A 17 Feb. Counterfire
 brought on us from NE of Factory or SP
 cal 149. Location of ey tk-876327

- KIRK, John Sgt.
1. Mk VI destroyed
 2. Burn
 - 3.*****
 4. 17 Feb, 1100 hrs, 864318
 5. 3600 yds
 6. 1 rd APC
 7. Broadside
 8. Hull
 9. 1st rd-hull
 10. Good
 11. Stationary
 12. On a road
 13. Yes
 14. No
 15. Yes, arty
 16. No
 17. Open, flat
 18. Buggy, vehicle stuck

Remarks: 1 Mk IV, 3 Mk VIs and 1
 wheeled veh in column. 3rd MK VI hit
 and burned on 1st rd.

RESTRICTED

WARD, Harry Sgt
Destroyer Commander
2d Platoon

1. Knocked out MK VI
2. Stay put
3. Leave vehicle
4. 1000 hrs, 16 Feb, 863113
5. 3800 yds
6. 4 APC and 6 HE
7. Broadside
8. hull
9. 8 and 9
10. Good
11. Moving
12. On a road
13. Yes
14. No
15. No
16. Yes, unknown
17. Open, flat
18. Boggy, vehicle stuck

Remarks: Tk was moving S toward a group of buildings and was stopped at approx E64322 and did not move from 1000 hrs 16 Feb to 1200 hrs 17 Feb. We were fired on from an unknown source.

WARD, Harry Sgt

1. Knocked out MK IV
2. Stay put
3. *****
4. 1100 hrs, 17 Feb
5. 3800 yds
6. 8 rds, APC
7. Broadside
8. Unknown, tk believed to have been exploded in ditch.
9. 8th rd.
10. Good
11. Stationary
12. On a road
13. Yes
14. No
15. Yes
16. Yes, unknown
17. Open, flat
18. Boggy

Remarks: The tk received a direct hit and disappeared. Personnel was seen running from position and take cover in ditches. He was firing on foot troops and buildings believed to house inf.

LOWE, John Sgt.
Tank Commander
3d platoon

1. MK IV
2. 1 burned, 1 moved out
3. Did not see
4. 17 or 18 Feb
5. 2000 yds
6. Do not know
7. Broadside and oblique
8. Turret and turret line
9. He fired quickly and at the turret line. Cannot say exactly what shot stopped him.
10. Poor to fair
11. Stationary
12. Three on the road and three in between the buildings.
13. Yes, artillery fire later fired on them.
14. Tanks on the road were firing
15. Yes. Sgt Frye's and Sgt Hargis M10's were firing and Sgt Rhoads later fired on them.
16. Both from the tanks and their arty.
17. Fair for medium and poor for heavy tanks
18. Spongy.

Remarks: Our delayed HE were glancing off the heavy tanks.

LOWE, John Sgt
Gun Commander
3d Platoon

1. One Mark VI, probably damaged
2. Moved out
3. Stay in
4. 18th or 19th Feb
5. 2500 yds
6. Do not know
7. Oblique
8. Do not know
9. Do not know
10. Poor
11. Moved and stayed on road
12. On the road
13. Couldn't see
14. Yes
15. Our arty later fired on them
16. Yes. From their arty.
17. Poor
18. Poor

Remarks: None

RESTRICTED

MARGIS, Nelson Sgt
Section Chief
1st Platoon

1. Damaged a Mk IV
2. Move out
3. Remained in tank
4. 18 Feb
5. 1200 yds.
6. 7. Rds, AP
7. Broadside
8. 4 rds on armor just above track, 1 rd on turret
9. Stopped him with AP on turret
10. 2500 yds due to smoke and dust
11. Stationary
12. Unknown
13. No
14. No
15. No
16. Yes, from the tank fired upon
17. Level sandy
18. Very soggy

PLACZEK, Walter I. Cpl.
Gunner

1st Platoon

1. Mark VI, probable damaged
2. Stay put
3. Stayed in tank
4. 18 Feb
5. 400 yds
6. 5 rds, HE
7. broadside
8. Unknown
9. - - - -
10. Good
11. Moving
12. On a road
13. No
14. Yes
15. No
16. By tanks and infantry
17. Rolling and soggy
18. Very wet and soggy.

PLACZEK, Walter I. Cpl
Gunner

1st platoon

1. Mk VI destroyed
2. Burned
3. Unknown
4. 18 Feb
5. 400 yds
6. 3 rds HE, 3 rds ATC, 9 rds HE
Total 15 rds.
7. Broadside
8. Vicinity of tracks
9. Unknown
10. Good
11. Moving
12. On a road
13. No
14. Yes
15. No
16. Yes, by tanks and inf.
17. Rolling-soggy
18. Very wet and soggy

RECORDED

SMITH, Richard Opl.
Destroyer Commander, 3rd Flt.

NICKEL, Lanier, PFC
Gunner, 3rd Platoon

1. MK IV
2. Move out
3. _____
4. 20th Feb. '44 (Coord. 905317)
5. 2700 yds.
6. 6 delayed HE
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. Poor
11. _____
12. In a building
13. Yes
14. ~~Yes~~ Yes
15. No
16. Definitely yes.
17. Flat
18. Flat

1. MK IV
2. Burned
3. Left the tank and withdrew
4. 20th Feb. '44
5. 2000 yds.
6. 3 rds APC and 2 rds. HE
7. Oblique
8. Front turret, side
9. Second APC in side set him on fire.
10. Fair, a little smoky
11. Moving backwards
12. In a field
13. No
14. No
15. Yes, at Infantry
16. Yes. Other tanks farther back.
17. Flat with stream in between
18. Flat

REMARKS: Tanks by backing up and laying a smoke screen in front of them. They covered each other pretty well, very good camouflage, hard to spot when they sat still.