

804th

HEADQUARTERS EIGHT HUNDRED FOURTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 464, U. S. ARMY

1 March 1944

SUBJECT: Organizational History for Period 1 February to 29 February 1944
Inclusive.

TO : Commanding General,
Fifth Army,
APO 464, U. S. Army.

This Battalion, less an advance detail of one (1) officer and twelve (12) enlisted men, who accompanied M-10's, eight (8) officers and sixteen (16) enlisted men gone forward to Italy as observers, six (6) officers and two hundred fifteen (215) enlisted men who remained with the unit equipment, departed from Oran harbor for Italy on the 1 February 1944, aboard H.M.S. City of Canterbury. The nine (9) days at sea were quiet except for one air raid alert at 1830 hours the first day, during which two enemy planes were sighted. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was used against them without result, and they hit two ships in the convoy (one of which sank). The ship dropped anchor and spent 48 hours in the harbor of Augusta, Sicily, then entered Naples and docked at 1600 hours, 9 February 1944. The unit began to disembark at 1800 hours, spent the night at Bagnoli Staging Area, began to leave at 1200 hours and finally cleared into new area near San Salvatore at 1100 hours, 11 February 1944. Equipment, including M-10's and other vehicles began to arrive from Naples on 17th February, finally all of them closing in the area on 22nd February. During this period normal training was carried on plus intensive work to service and prepare men and materiel for combat which seemed imminent. The Commanding Officer and Executive Officer went forward to Cassino as observers on 23rd, returning on the 24th. On the 25th, five (5) officers and forty eight enlisted men were transferred to P.C. #6, per 88th Division, Special Orders No. 36 as part of the program to eliminate all personnel above T.O. The balance of thirty-four (34) enlisted men transferred to division on the following day, per Special Orders No. 37. On the 27th there was a meeting with the Commanding General, Division Artillery, for a warning order as a preliminary to a move forward on the following Friday. On the 28th at 0915 hours, Commanding Officer and S-3 went forward to reconnoiter - 0930, Division Artillery called to cancel the prospective move. As of the 29th of this month, the battalion is fully equipped and mentally prepared for combat. It is the hope of all personnel that enemy contact will be made during the month to follow.

For the Battalion Commander:

Sidney N. Epstein
SIDNEY N. EPSTEIN,
Captain, Infantry,
Adjutant.

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