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HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 230, US Army

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Period 1 February 1945 through 28 February 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, 25, D.C.
(THRU CHANNELS)

The following is a history of this organization for the month of February 1945, submitted in accordance with AR 345-105, dtd 9 March 1943.

- a. Unit - No change.
- b. Changes in Organization - No change.
- c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) At beginning of Period:

Officers	37
Warrant Officers	1
Enlisted Men	617

(2) Net Increase for Month:

Officers	2
Warrant Officers	0
Enlisted Men	0

(3) Net Decrease for Month:

Officers	0
Warrant Officers	0
Enlisted Men	17

(4) At end of Period:

Officers	39
Warrant Officers	1
Enlisted Men	600

- d. Stations of Unit or Parts thereof:

Station: SOURBRODT - Belgium (L861090)

At beginning of Period:
Date of Departure: 8 February 1945

STOLBERG - Germany (K941411)

Date of Arrival: 9 February 1945
Date of Departure: 27 February 1945

DUREN - Germany (122443)

Date of Arrival: 27 February 1945
Date of Departure: 28 February 1945

ESCHWEILER/UBER FELD - (184464)
Date of Arrival: 28 February 1945
To end of Period.

- e. Marches:

(1) Purpose:

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- (a) To move the Battalion to a new station at STOLBERG, Germany, in order to assemble for operations in connection with the 8th Infantry Division to whom the unit was newly attached.
- (b) To move the Battalion to a position in close proximity to Companies for the purpose of supply and administration at DUREN, Germany.
- (c) To move the Battalion to a position in close proximity to Companies for the purpose of supply and administration at ESCHWEILER-UBER-FELD, Germany.

(2) Length of Daily March:

(a)	SOURBRODT to STOLBERG	35 miles app.
(b)	STOLBERG to DUREN	15 miles app.
(c)	DUREN to ESCHWEILER	5 miles app.

- (3) (a) Points between which Marched with Dates: The battalion moved during the night by motor convoy and tracks via JALHAY, EUPEN, AACHEN to a new station in the town of STOLBERG, Germany, on 8 and 9 February 1945.

- (b) Battalion moved via the towns of ESCHWEILER, WEISWEILER and LANGERWEHE to new station East of the ROER River on 27 February 1945.

- (c) Battalion moved via the towns of DISTELRATH and GIBBELSRATH to a new station at ESCHWEILER, Germany on 28 February 1945.

- (4) Conditions of Roads and Weather: Roads from SOURBRODT to STOLBERG were poor due to damage caused by heavy military traffic and weather. In some cases they were almost impassable to wheeled vehicles because of deep ruts and mud. Weather was cold with rain and little or no moonlight.

The roads used between STOLBERG and DUREN were in fair condition, having been cleared of debris and rubble prior to movement. Heavy shelling and bombing by our forces partly damaged and cratered these roads but repairs were hastily made and roads remained open. Weather was clear, warm and sunny.

Roads over which the unit moved from DUREN to ESCHWEILER were in excellent condition. Rapid advance by our forces through this territory left roads undamaged. Weather was clear, warm and sunny.

- (5) Remarks: Marches were made in most part without incident. The march between SOURBRODT and STOLBERG presented the only problem. This march was made under very poor conditions of roads and weather. This unit was not relieved from the line until it was time to begin the march and no time was allotted for preparation. One M-10 of Company "B" had a bad motor and fell out of column and one M-10 from Company "C" was later replaced because of a bad motor. The route had to be changed twice during the march.

f. Campaigns: Germany.

g. Battles.

- (1) Defense of ELSENORN RIDGE (Cont'd) From beginning of period to 8 February 1945.

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(a) The Enemy.

1. G-2 estimated that the enemy was withdrawing from this sector. It was also reported that some German troops were willing to surrender and desert but did not know how and were too closely watched and surprised by officers in charge.
2. Enemy Defenses: No change. See Battalion History for Month of January. Enemy units opposing the Division Sector were composed of 4/989 VG Regt (277 VG Div), 89 VG Div, 9 Pz Div, 3 Para Div, and 47 Engr Brigade.

The list of Reserves included the 49 VG, 275 VG, 331 Inf Div, 116 Pz, 15 Pz Gren Div, and 130 Pz LEHR Div, estimated to be in the process of reorganizing and refitting.

The 1055 and 1056 Inf Regt of 89 Inf Div opposed Div Sector.

Enemy front lines: HELLENTHAL, (FO68092), (FO61087), (FO69081), (FO70061), (FO59058), (FO78053), (FO60064), (FO58056), (FO40043), (FO51010), (L69995), (L045975).

3. Enemy armor was reported in the enemy held town of HELLENTHAL. Enemy artillery was light and of a harassing nature in most instances. This tapered off near the end of the period and it was believed that the enemy was withdrawing all but SP artillery.

No armor or artillery was captured or destroyed. 1 pillbox was destroyed. 1 tank destroyed - Mk V(?)

4. No prisoners of war were officially taken during the period. All enemy troops captured were turned over to neighboring infantry units.

(b) Elements affecting action.

1. After the defeat of the enemy in the "Bulge" he was forced to retreat and retire behind the defensive positions of the Siegfried Line.

(c) Action:

1. Unit was attached to V Corps, assigned to First US Army and further attached to the 99th Infantry Division. Companies were further attached to Regiments within the Division, with the exception of Company "C" which was attached to the 9th Infantry Division.

The Battalion Command Post was located at SOUR-BRODT, Belgium (Coor L861090). Company "A" moved its reserve position from KRINKELT and was relieved from the 38th Infantry Regiment. Company "B" assembled at coor 925076. Company "C" was attached to the 9th Infantry Division and further attached to the 102d Cavalry Squadron. Reconnaissance Company attached one platoon to each of the line companies and maintained one platoon in reserve, securing the Forward CP at coor 924073, ELSENBORN.

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2. Mission: The Battalion's mission was to give direct support to the Infantry of the 99th Infantry Division.

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF ACTION

On 1 February 1945 the 2d and 9th Infantry Divisions had made contact with the enemy. The 99th Infantry Division, to which this unit was attached, was moving in to this new sector at this time (3 February 1945) and was to relieve the 82d Airborne Division by 6 February 1945.

The enemy had withdrawn behind the Siegfried Line and by 3 February our attack had progressed partly through a point in the defenses where the two belts merged. At this time Co "A" of this unit was acting in direct support of the 394th Infantry Regiment and Company "B" was in direct support of the 393rd and 395th Infantry Regiments.

Enemy armor was reported in the town of HELLEN-THAL and it was anticipated that Company "B" of this unit would make contact.

On 6 February Co "A" attacked two pillboxes acting in direct support of the Infantry and destroyed one dome pillbox with APCBDF in the vicinity of UDENBRETH.

On 8 February 1945 the 644th TD Bn was moved to a new sector and was attached to the 8th Infantry Division. The 8th Infantry Division was expected to attack by 10 February 1945.

This unit was relieved by the 814th TD Bn and moved to its new sector west of the German city of DUREN.

3. Special Weapons Used: APCBDF was used in reduction of pillbox by Company "A", this unit.

Communications: Good. Contact with higher Headquarters and down to Companies were maintained with both wire and radio. Contact down to and including platoons and destroyers was maintained by radio on company channel.

4. No change: See Battalion History for Month of January.
5. No change: See Battalion History for Month of January.
6. Supply and evacuation: Difficult. Roads were cleared of snow by a thaw but immediately became deeply rutted and muddy.
7. Casualties: See attached casualty list for month of February 1945.

(2) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE.

(a) The Enemy.

1. Enemy forces opposing the division sector were estimated by G-2 as being composed of the 365th VG Div, 957 VGR and the 958 VGR and the 1/943 Inf Regt of the 353 Inf Div.

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Listed in reserve were the 116 Pz Div, 15 Pz Gren, 130 Pz LEHR, 10 SS Pz, and 17 SS Pz. The first two were later identified on the First Canadian Army Front and the last three were later estimated as possible but not probable reserves. This first division was later reported to have been moved to the Russian Front leaving the 130 Pz LEHR as the only possible reserve opposing the Corps Front and it was later committed in the Canadian First Army Sector.

Near the close of the period contact was made with the 9 Pz, 3 Pz and the 12 VG.

The enemy was well prepared in defensive positions and made the most of natural terrain features.

Morale was considered to be poor with many troops willing to desert or surrender if the opportunity were presented.

During the period an unidentified enemy weapon judged to be either a small rocket or large caliber gun was used. Craters of this projectile measured approximately 25 feet across and 9 to 10 feet deep. It was assumed the depth of the crater was caused by the penetration of the rocket or by the fact that the shell was a base detonated projectile.

2. Enemy defenses consisted of minefields, river mines, heavy mortar fire in concentrated areas along the river bank, dug in strongpoints, and a well knit anti-tank defense, using self-propelled guns. Natural defense obstacles were exploited to the utmost using elevated railroad beds, canals and streams.

Mines were used to some extent but became sparse after the initial frontlines had been passed.

Demolitions were used extensively to crater roads, blow bridges, and generally harass the advance of our troops.

Enemy front lines ran generally along the East bank of the ROER River from the northern division boundary to coor (F113408) South of KRAUTHAUSEN.

Enemy dispositions from North to South were as follows: 1/957-363 VG Div, 1/958-363 VG Div, 1/943-353 Inf Regt.

3. Enemy counter-attacks consisted of groups of 100 infantrymen with several tanks or self-propelled guns in support.

Enemy planes were inactive until 16 February 1945 when fighter-bombers made an appearance in the Division Sector, and attempted to demolish bridges and crater the AUTOBAIN. The new ME 262 jet-propelled plane was also used for several days over the Division Sector on reconnaissance missions but this activity ceased when our attack started.

Enemy armor consisted of some tanks but mostly self-propelled guns. These acted as artillery and direct fire weapons and fought defensively across the Cologne Plain to the Rhine. Some long range heavy artillery was used but the dispersion pattern was too great for any degree of accuracy.

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During the period this unit destroyed:

- 1 Mk V (Prob)
- 2 Mk IV
- 2 AT Guns (88)
- 1 Pillbox
- 3 MG nests
- 4 Wheeled vehicles

4. No prisoners were officially taken during the period. Enemy troops captured were turned over to neighboring Infantry units.

(b) Elements affecting action:

1. Enemy information was detailed and correct. In one instance the enemy fired propaganda shells containing situation overlays of our front lines over the river into the Division Sector. Reconnaissance was made chiefly at night by plane and little or no patrol action was made across the river.

2. Civilians were evacuated in forward areas at the beginning of the river crossing phase of operations, but later in the period, when the approaches of COLOGNE were reached, civilians in great numbers were found in cellars and dugouts.

Use of the Volksturm by the enemy proved unsuccessful. In most cases they were ill-equipped and disorganized. As soon as strong opposition was brought to bear, many raised a white flag and some discarded their uniform and mingled with civilian population until apprehended by the CIC or other agencies.

Civilians in rear areas were disregarded by military personnel in compliance with the Army Non-Fraternization Policy.

3. The terrain east of DUREN was flat and level, crossed by a drainage net that ran from the SE to the NW which included the ERET Canal. This plain was commonly called the COLOGNE PLAIN and was ideal tank country. Observation was excellent on clear days.

(c) Action:

1. The 644th TD Bn was assigned to FIRST US Army and attached to the 8th Infantry Division. The Bn CP was located at STOIBERG, Germany. Coor: (K941411). The companies were further attached to Regiments and Rcn Platoons were assigned to the line companies with the Rcn Hq Platoon securing the Bn Fwd CP in SCHLICH, Germany, until the day after the attack. Thereafter the Fwd CP and Rcn Co followed in close proximity to TD Companies.
2. Mission: To act as defense against armor in the Division Sector and give direct support to the infantry.

NARRATIVE OF ACTION

Three dams north of the Division Sector, the URFTTALSPEERE, MUNTALSPEERE, and the SCHWALLEMAUFI were intact at the beginning of the campaign with the lakes overflowing. It was estimated later in the period that the enemy was incapable of breaching them. The enemy did manage to blow some of the valves in the lower dam causing the flow to raise the ROER River approximately 6 to 8 feet and to spread out to a width of about 150 yards in some places.

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This expansion and deepening of the river held up the attack and gave the enemy adequate time to prepare and defend an area that was at first considered to be lightly held. Heavy mortar fire along the river bank held our patrols and operations to a minimum.

Late reports prior to the river crossing indicated the enemy was infiltrating tanks and gun batteries into the town of DUREN taking positions in garages and buildings within the town. High ground was exploited, many AT ditches were dug, following natural defense lines.

On 9 February a few hours after arriving in the new sector the 2d Platoon of Co C had the mission of firing on an enemy pillbox located on the east side of the ROER River. Target was taken under fire with good effect and listed as probably destroyed. This same platoon knocked out an OP in a church steeple located in the town of NIEDERAU. Four rounds of direct fire were observed and the mission listed as accomplished.

Co A fired 1000 rounds interdicting indirect fire along the NE road running from DUREN to GOLZHEIM in preparation for the attack on 22 and 23 February

Co B fired on a tank, blowing off the turret on 19 February.

On 21 February 100 enemy vehicles, the majority identified as tanks, were reported at coor (188495). They were believed to be elements of the 130 Pz LEHR Div

The attack by the 8th Infantry Division began at 231250. By 241040 the 1st and 2d platoons of Co B had crossed the ROER River over a Bailey Bridge in the Division Sector. These were the first armored elements to cross the river in the Division Sector and by 1115 the entire company had crossed and were followed by Co C. By 1821 all destroyers of the Bn were across the river. Co C proceeded past obstacles to join the 28th Regiment in NIEDERAU.

The 2d Platoon of Co B with infantry riding astride their backs advanced and assaulted the old barracks on the north side of DUREN after having taken these targets under fire. At the same time the 3rd Platoon of Co B assaulted the barracks using the same tactics, and 70 enemy troops were mopped up by the accompanying infantry.

Co C operating on the south flank of the Division offered valuable assistance in clearing the woods west of STOCKHEIM (137403) and clearing STEPPRATH.

Co A advanced through DUREN along the DUREN-MERZENICH Road.

On 25 February Co B was assigned the mission of protecting the 8th Division Sector from armored attack through NIEDERAU. By this time the towns of DISTERATH and BINSFELD were held and units were moving on GIRBELRATH. The Fwd CP of the Bn crossed the ROER on this date and closed in DUREN at 251230.

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Effective 251430 the Bn less Co A was attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment. The town of STOCKHEIM was being mopped up by elements of the 28th Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment and Co C.

By the morning of February 26 the 3rd Armored Division had reached the German town of GOLSHEIM and were prepared to jump off to the next objective of BUIR by 1000 hours. The 3rd Platoon of Co A at this time was located at coor: (167465)-GIBBELSRATH. By noon the Battalion had assembled in reserve in the vicinity of BINSFELD and was prepared for a counter-attack. The 3rd Armored Division advanced to positions at (179528), W of MORSCHENICH (193528), N of BUIR (196515), E of BUIR and (204503), W of SEELRATH. 1000 prisoners were taken by them. At the latter part of the day the infantry and Battalion were assigned the mission of seizing the high ground on the east side of the KRFT Canal.

Platoon positions on 27 February found Co B displaced in ROMMELSHEIM, BURG BUBENHEIM, FRAUWILLSHEIM, ESCHWEILER, GIBBELSRATH and OLLESHEIM prior to daylight. The enemy at this time still presented the problem of counter-attacking and plans were formed to counter act any action of this type. 100 infantry and 4 or 5 SP guns counter-attacked near LANGERNICH during the day.

The close of the day's activity found the battalion prepared to push on to the town of KERPEN. The infantry was in the outskirts of MODRATH.

By late evening of 27 February the 1st Platoon, Co C, working with the 3rd Battalion of the 121 Infantry Regiment was located at (253521), W of KERPEN, 2d Platoon, Co A was at BERGERHAUSEN (237519).

On 28 February the Ron Co was assigned the mission of selecting company assembly areas in KERPEN, inspecting and clearing them of possible mines. This town was under heavy enemy fire by heavy artillery at the time. One round scored a direct hit on a building in BLATZHEIM in which Ron Co troops were billeted. 3 men of this company were KIA and 6 WIA. First and Second Battalions of the 121 Infantry Regiment had advanced to (289545) and (297548) vicinity of MODRATH. The attack was being held up at this point by an enemy blown bridge and a huge crater in the road of approach at coor: (288547). Alternate routes around these obstacles were being reconnoitered by Ron Co and Co B was maintaining constant liaison with the 1st Battalion 121 Infantry Regiment.

In many instances the infantry had ridden on the back of the TDs in the direct assault and the guns of the Battalion had subjected the town or village to direct fire prior to the infantry attack.

The end of the period found this unit across the KRFT Canal preparing to assault the enemy-held town of MODRATH in conjunction with the infantry of the 8th Division.

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3. No special weapons were used during the period.

Communications were excellent. The Bn Fwd CP stayed well forward and in close proximity of the companies within FM range of lower units. Wire was run to Battalion whenever practical and radio contact was maintained between higher Hq by 193 radio and between companies and Platoons by use of 608 and 610 radio on Company and Battalion channel.

4. Supporting artillery moved rapidly in the advanced and helped materially in softening the objectives prior to the attack.

Supporting engineers of the Division built crossings over the ROER and cleared the way over the ERFT Canal. Roads were maintained and areas hastily demined.

5. No special weapons were used.

6. Supply was sufficient. Battalion Rear Echelon moved across water barriers as soon as possible and established forward dumps in close proximity to companies.

Evacuation was difficult because of the rapid moving situation. Normal evacuation was through infantry aid stations.

7. Casualties: See attached casualty list.

h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.

- (1) Defense of ELSENBORN RIDGE.

CO, 644th TD Bn - Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR
CO, Hq Co, 644th TD Bn - 1st Lt JOHN A BAER
CO, Co A, 644th TD Bn - Major HARRY L GODSPALL, JR
CO, Co B, 644th TD Bn - Capt CARL H WIGGENHORN
CO, Co C, 644th TD Bn - Capt HARLOW F LENON
CO, Rcn Co, 644th TD Bn - Capt HAROLD L HOFFER
CO, Med Det 644th TD Bn - Capt NATHANIEL BERG

- (2) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE.

CO, 644th TD Bn - Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR
CO, Hq Co, 644th TD Bn - 1st Lt JOHN A BAER
CO, Co A, 644th TD Bn - Major HARRY L GODSHALL, JR
CO, Co B, 644th TD Bn - 8 to 26 Feb 45 - Capt CARL
WIGGENHORN
26 to 28 Feb 45 - Capt GERALD
L HOFFER
CO, Co C, 644th TD Bn - Capt HARLOW F LENON
CO, Rcn Co, 644th TD Bn - Capt HAROLD L HOFFER
CO, Med Det 644th TD Bn - Capt NATHANIEL BERG

i. Losses in Action - Officers and Enlisted Men.

- (1) Engagement.

(a) Defense of ELSENBORN RIDGE.
(b) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE.

- (2) Names.

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(a) Defense of ELSENBORN RIDGE

None.

(b) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE.

1. Officers.

1st Lt OWEN R McDERMOTT, 0886903 (WIA)

2. Enlisted Men.

Sgt John T Hartzog, 34135467, (WIA)
Sgt Frank A Pisano, 32003859, (WIA)
Sgt Guy A Dougan, 33104850, (WIA)
Sgt Tony J DiGiacomo, 33115555, (KIA)
Tec 4 Frederick T Esper, 32003839, (WIA)
Tec 4 Carl A Lake, 38110719, (WIA)
Cpl Stanley F Campbell, 36552664, (WIA)
Cpl Leo E Hart, 39549161, (KIA)
Cpl James D McCord, 33418338, (KIA)
Tec 5 William J Duvall, 33096342, (KIA)
Tec 5 Placido F Tomaselli, 31036148, (WIA)
Tec 5 Herman L Lopez, 34152287, (WIA)
Pfc Thomas F Daly, 32964989, (WIA)
Pfc Mickey D Delladonna, 15307094, (WIA)
Pfc Herman J Neil, 33476143, (WIA)
Pfc Marion M Cockrell, 34153463, (WIA)
Pfc John M Meehan, 33418272, (WIA)
Pfc James C Addison, 34058842, (KIA)
Pfc John H Giel, 33115499, (WIA)
Pfc John Arlet, 33115429, (WIA)
Pfc Harry A Horting, 33494769, (WIA)
Pvt David A Gibson, 33478102, (WIA)
Pvt Thomas D Cline, 39577208, (WIA)
Pvt Joseph D DeSantis, 33780415, (WIA)
Pvt Lawrence Robillard, 31355002, (WIA)
Pvt Daniel J Gallagher, 15132705, (WIA)

(3) Killed in Action.

(a) Defense of ELSENBORN RIDGE.

None.

(b) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE.

1. Officers - None.

2. Enlisted Men - Five (5).

(4) Wounded in Action.

(a) Defense of ELSENBORN RIDGE.

None.

(b) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE.

1. Officers - One (1).

2. Enlisted Men - Twenty-one (21)

(5) Missing in Action.

None.

(6) Taken Prisoner.

None.

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J. Former and Present Members who have Distinguished Themselves in action.

(1) Silver Star Awards.

Lt Colonel EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR, O20838, Infantry, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. The gallantry, unswerving devotion to duty and disregard for personal safety displayed by this officer are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Missouri.

Lt Colonel EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR, O20838, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 November 1944 in the vicinity of *****, Germany. While in support of infantry units, Lt Colonel GRAHAM led an advance reconnaissance patrols of his battalion through an enemy-mined area. Although a heavy enemy artillery barrage was being laid down by the enemy, he returned to his battalion and directed them to their forward positions. His gallant leadership and sound judgement were in the highest traditions of the service. Entered the military service from Missouri.

Captain JAMES C WILLIAMS, O1169833, Field Artillery, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. The courage, devotion to duty and disregard for personal safety displayed by this officer are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Entered military service from Tennessee.

S/Sgt Isaac L Wood, 20235836, Field Artillery, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. The gallantry, unselfish loyalty to comrades in arms and disregard for personal safety far above and beyond the call of duty displayed by this enlisted man reflect highest honor upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New Jersey.

(2) Bronze Star Awards.

Lt Colonel EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR, O20838, Infantry, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy on 27 November 1944, in Germany. Entered United States Military Academy from Missouri.

Captain HARLOW F LENON, O1169215, Field Artillery (TD), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 29 November 1944 in the vicinity of *****, Germany. On the morning of 29 November, while under enemy observation and subjected to intense enemy artillery fire, Captain LENON personally reconnoitered the terrain on which his destroyers were to operate. That afternoon he led his company in the assault on an enemy town, directing its movement and fire from an exposed position. His skillful leadership and great personal courage contributed much to the success of the operations. Entered the military service from Oregon.

Captain HAROLD L HOFFER, O1822572, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17-19 December 1944. Entered military service from Indiana.

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1st Lt PAUL R STEVENSON, JR, 01823512, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17-19 December 1944. Entered military service from California.

2d Lt PHILIP A DiCARLO, 0886902, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17-19 December 1944. Entered military service from New York.

1st Sgt David M Daily, 32066176, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 October 1944 to 1 February 1945, in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. Entered military service from New Jersey.

In accordance with AR 600-45 and Circular 2, Headquarters First United States Army, dated 4 January 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to T/Sgt Peter J Czachor, 32047847, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, while serving with the army of the United States, for exceptionally meritorious achievements in performance of outstanding service not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium, for the period 8 January 1945 to 10 January 1945. Entered military service from New Jersey.

T/Sgt Robert W Gunther, 32182377, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 23 December 1944 to 16 February 1945, in Belgium and Germany. Entered military service from New York.

S/Sgt Willard W Etheridge, 34163507, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany. Entered the military service from Louisiana.

S/Sgt Frederick G Hogg, 32056725, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 20 July 1944 to 1 February 1945, in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

Sgt Melvin A Mounts, 33418358, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 19 December 1944. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Sgt John T Hartzog, 34135467, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 18 December 1944. Entered military service from Mississippi.

Sgt James H Tatum, 34081539, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17-18 December 1944. Entered military service from Georgia.

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Sgt Tony J DiGiacomo, 33115555, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17 December 1944. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Tec 4 Leroy H McCrerey, 33418273, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 July 1944 to 16 February 1945, in France; Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Cpl Monroe S Klock, 33105333, FA, Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17 September 1944 in the vicinity of ~~*****~~, France. During an infantry attack, Cpl Klock covered the movements of his company commander while on reconnaissance. Advancing through concentrated enemy artillery and small arms fire, Cpl Klock delivered accurate fire against enemy snipers and threw captured hand grenades at a German strongpoint, assisting in the capture of nine prisoners. His actions contributed greatly to the success of the operation. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Tec 5 John H Dudley, 31013566, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 18 December 1944. Entered military service from New Hampshire.

Tec 5 Hubert J Roner, 33418415, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 15 January 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Tec 5 Bernard H Nuth, Jr, 33546771, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17 December 1944. Entered military service from Maryland.

Pvt John J Cullinane, 32184556, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 18 December 1944. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Pfc John R Giel, 33115499, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 17 December 1944. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Pfc John Husak, 33115730, FA, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against the enemy in Belgium and Western Germany, on 18 December 1944. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Pvt Charles E Bane, 33418316, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 15 January 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

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(3) Rewards:

Three (3) Silver Star Medals

One (1) Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal

Twenty-one (21) Bronze Star Medals

Two (2) Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star Medal

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MEDICAL DETACHMENT 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 230, US Army
1 March 1945

CASUALTY LIST (FEBRUARY 1945)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	James J. Murphy T/4 33475246	C	Inguinal Hernia, rt	2 Feb 45	2 Clr Sta	Disease
2	Henry P. Nuts S/Sgt 20234664	C	Hemorrhoids, Int & Ext	2 Feb 45	2 Clr Sta	Disease
3	William L. Briscoe T/4 34089796	B1	Adenitis, cervical gland, cause undet.	5 Feb 45	2 Clr Sta	Disease
4	John J. Garibaldi Cpl 32183585	Med	Chronic bronchitis, poss T.B.	7 Feb 45	324 Clr	Disease
5	Evan L. Evernden PFC 39324133	C	Gastroenteritis, acute, mod, sv	7 Feb 45	617 Clr	Disease
6	Frederick T. Esper T/4 32403839	B	WIA Bomb W(mine)LW forearm, lt	11 Feb 45	Duty	Battle Casualty
7	Dwayne R. Miller Pvt 36233321	B	Impetigo, neck	12 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
8	Robert G. Goddard PFC 35898390	Rcn	Psychoneurosis(?)	12 Feb 45 RTD 19 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
	John T. Hartseg Sgt 34135467	C	WIA Shell W(mortar)Pen W rt forearm, contusion of back	14 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
10	Roland Rainey PFC 31837277	Rcn	URI Temp 101	17 Feb 45 RTD 22 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
11	Edward W. Henry Pvt 33129498	B	Diarrhea, acute, sv	18 Feb 45 RTD 21 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
12	Thomas F. Daly PFC 32964989	C	WIA Shell W(HE)Pen W, side LW lt leg	19 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
13	Mickey D. Delladonna PFC 15307094	C	WIA Shell W(HE)LW lt leg	19 Feb 45	Duty ETPH	Battle Casualty
14	Herman J. Feil PFC 33476143	A	WIA Shell W(flak)Pen W, sv, parietal reg., skull, w/protrusion of brain matter	22 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
15	Joseph E. Tierney PFC 33475932	B	NYD Back pains	22 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
16	Robert G. Goddard PFC 35898390	Rcn	Combat Exhaustion	23 Feb 45 RTD 25 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
17	Arthur Nevak T/5 33115512	Rcn	Poss FS, kth toe, rt foot	24 Feb 45 RTD 25 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	MB Injury
18	Marvin W. Cookrell PFC 34453463	Rcn	WIA Bomb W(aerial)LW rt knee	24 Feb 45	Duty ETPH	Battle

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No	Name	Rank	Service No	Remarks	Date	Location	Remarks
19	Hyman L. Lopez T/5 34283483			WIA Shell W(HB)LW middle finger, rt hand	25 Feb 45	Duty	Battle Casualty
20	James D. McCord Cpl 33418338	A	KIA		25 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
21	John M. Neehan PFC 33418373	A	WIA Shell W(mortar)Pen W, lt arm, rt eye, sv		25 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
22	Frank A. Pisano Sgt 32003859	A	WIA Shell W(HB)Pen W, lt wrist		25 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
23	Stanley F. Campbell Cpl 36558664	A	WIA		25 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
24	Leo E. Hatt Pvt 39549161	A	KIA		25 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
25	David A. Gibson Pvt 33478102	A	WIA		25 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
26	Carl A. Lake T/5 38110719	A	WIA		25 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
27	Daniel J. Gallagher Pvt 15132705	A	WIA		25 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
28	Robert G. Goddard PFC 35898390	Rcn	Psychoneurosis		26 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
29	Owen R. McDermott 1st Lt O-886903	C	WIA Shell W(HB)LW chest, lt		26 Feb 45	Duty ETPHC	Battle Casualty
	Bert N. Joyce 1st Lt O-1170789	B	Chronic bronchitis		27 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	Disease
31	Alfred W. Sienkiewicz Sgt 32183536	A	Trench Foot		28 Feb 45	8 Clr Sta	MB Injury
32	James C. Addison Pvt 34058842	Rcn	KIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
33	Tony J. DiGiacomo Sgt 33115555	Rcn	KIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
34	William J. Duval T/5 3309342	Rcn	KIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
35	Thomas Cline Pvt 39577208	Rcn	WIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
36	Joseph D. DeSantis Pvt 33780415	Rcn	WIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
37	John R. Giel Pvt 33115499	Rcn	WIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
38	John Arlet Pvt 33115429	Rcn	WIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty
39	Lawrence Robillard Pvt 31355002	Rcn	WIA		28 Feb 45		Battle Casualty

No. Name
40 Placido F. Tomaselli
7/5 310336148

Sex Height
Rm WIA

Date Disposition Remarks
28 Feb 45 Battle
Casualty

Nathaniel Berg
NATHANIEL BERG
Captain, M.C.
Surgeon

~~RESTRICTED~~

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 51)

HEADQUARTERS 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APC #8, U. S. Army
9 March 1945. /jcc

To the officers and men of the Division:

Since the 23rd of February you have crossed two water barriers (The Moser River and The Erft Canal); surmounted and over-run a formidable ridge (The Forgebirger), with a line of deep pits in front of it, passable only on causeways; and you have captured and over-run one sizeable city (Frechen), and forty-seven towns and villages, each a small fortress in itself.

You have captured thirty-two hundred prisoners of war.

You have killed some three or four hundred of the enemy troops.

You have wounded some three thousand of him.

With magnificent spirit and enterprise, you have advanced on the enemy positions by day and night, contemptuous of danger and fatigue. You drove straight through on the main route from Duren to Cologne, and you overcame the bitterest resistance of the advance.

Your opportunities for rest were non-existent, but with cheerful willingness you went on from objective to objective, organizing your night advances with skill and effectiveness, and executing them speedily, with dash and resolution.

You advanced, in all, thirty-three miles. You now stand on the Rhine.

You are a division to point to, as an example to others.

To the Artillery who so effectively supported the men of the 8th Division Infantry, to the Engineers who made their routes passable, to the Signal men who kept the elements of the division in communication, to the Reconnaissance Troop who guarded the flanks, to the Tanks, TDs, AAA, and Chemical Mortar men who in close support shot the Infantry forward, to the MPs who kept the Division together, to the medical personnel who got the wounded out and cared for them, to the Quartermaster and Ordnance who kept the vital supplies rolling up, and to the Civil Government personnel who got in quickly and cared for fifty thousand German civilians, great praise is due.

To the Infantry of the 8th Division: Well Done.

Make the most of every opportunity for rest and repose, for the advance will continue. Wear your uniforms properly, and show your pride in yourselves and in your outfit by your bearing. Keep fit, and profit by the tactical mistakes you have made. Learn to organize your attacks even better, and to put them over with even more dash and more resolution, to hold your casualties low. Let every officer and man view the prospects ahead with optimism and confidence, and put his shoulder to the wheel with the determination to make the Fighting 8th the best division in the Army.

Dist: A & C

Moore
MOORE,
Comdg.

~~RESTRICTED~~