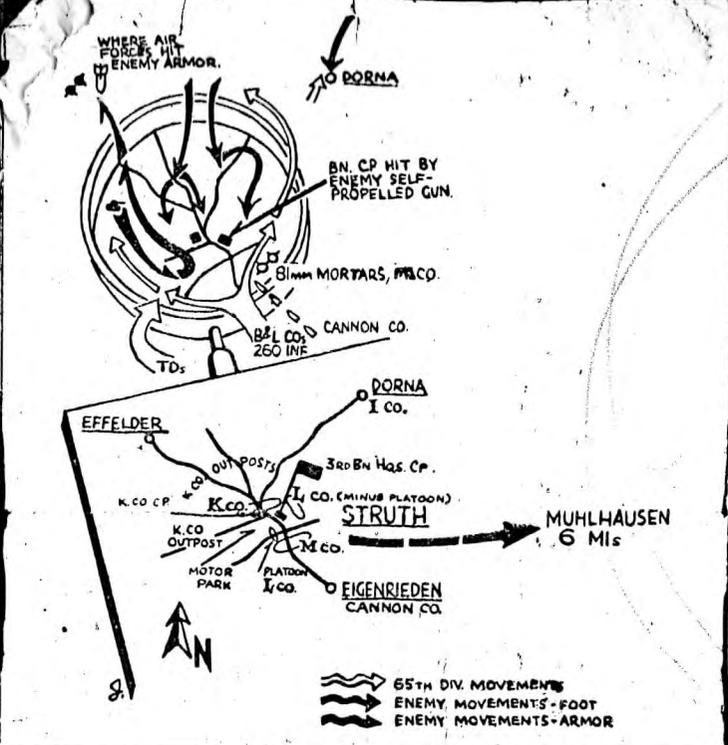




At the same time, the third army shattered the first big counter-blow aimed at its spearheads thrust within 130 miles of Berlin by knocking out 40 tanks in a melee west of Muelhausen.



Fighter bombers, coming in at 0900, bombed and strafed enemy infantry and tanks near the town. Along with the 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion, they accounted for eleven enemy tanks (of an estimated sixteen), a large part of the air tally obtained as the tanks retreated northeast from the battlefield about 1300.

To a TD parked beside "K" Company's CP, however, goes the honor of revenging the most dramatic enemy gesture. During the morning, a self-propelled gun rumbled up to the 3rd Battalion CP, 261st Infantry, to fire point-blank at the building indicated by Struth citizenry. The 808 TD made certain that the enemy gun never attacked another American CP.

The battle of Struth, which started out as an infantry engagement, ended as a striking example of the power of combined arms.

CAMP RUCKER REPORTER

Tank Destroyers Due Here Today

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Tank Unit Has Colorful Career With 3rd Army

Saw 225 Days Of Hectic Service In Austrian Theater

The 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion is the first unit of the 35th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Second Army, to reach Camp Rucker under the new set-up as announced officially two weeks ago. The full TO strength of the battalion, including 35 officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 607 men, is due to be assembled here today, according to information given out earlier in the week from headquarters set up in building No. 8110.

Lt. Col. Robert C. McDonald, commanding officer of the battalion, has already arrived on the Post, together with cadremen and enlisted men who formed the vanguard of the unit.

The Tank Destroyer unit comes to Camp Rucker with a colorful career, having had 225 days of active service in the European Theater of Operations with General Patton's Third Army. It returns to the states on August 3 and was assigned to Camp Shanks, N. Y., from which place it comes to the local installation.

During its strenuous days of active service in the vicinity of Linz, Austria, the battalion lived up to its slogan, "Seek, Strike and Destroy," having to its credit 65 enemy vehicles destroyed, 3,664 prisoners taken, and 877 enemy killed. It is also credited with having knocked out thirty-nine enemy 88's, fifteen 20-mm, three 40-mm, 11 artillery pieces, 56 machine guns, 12 mortars, 1 Nedelwerfer, 157 pillboxes, 61 enemy observation posts, 6 bazukas, 4 ammunition dumps, 1 radar unit, 1 radio station, and 13 boats. This record was achieved at a cost of 1 officer and 18 men killed, and 4 officers and 44 men wounded.

The unit's weapon is the deadly M-36, self-propelled 90-mm gun, of which it has thirty-six. A number of the weapons is due to arrive today with the personnel, it was stated.

The battalion is credited with many outstanding exploits and displays of heroism on the field of battle, as is attested in the fact that its personnel wears no less than 3 Silver Stars, 131 Bronze Stars, 14 Oak Leaf Clusters, 1 Croix de Guerre, 3 Bronze Battle Stars for engagements in Hhiringland, Ardennes and Central Europe, and 70 Purple Hearts.

Colonel McDonald, the commanding officer, is a graduate of West Point Military Academy of the Class of '35 and has been in command of the battalion since July, 1942.

808th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Becoming attached to the 80th Division on 25 September 1944, the 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion early proved its worth by providing anti-mechanized defense and maintaining roadblocks. By its timely and accurate firing of all assigned missions, during the all out push across the Seille River, it materially aided in the success of that operation. Until its release from the Division on 21 February 1945, the 808th continued to make the enemy feel its strength.