

S E C R E T

H-E-A-D-Q-U-A-R-T-E-R-S
614th Tank Destroyer Battalion

APO 758 U. S. Army
29 May 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, 103d Inf Div., APO 470, U. S. Army.

In accordance with Section IV, Circular 34, Hq. Seventh Army, dtd 28 November 1944, the Unit History and supporting documents of this battalion for the month of May 1945, are forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

Jesse S. Hickman
JESSE S. HICKMAN
1st Lt. Infantry
Ass't Adjutant

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
COMMANDING COMMITTEE

Blund Puckerson Cent.
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By *K* NARA Date *01/21/11*

S E C R E T

NARRATIVE REPORT -UNIT HISTORY

614TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION--MONTH OF MAY 1945
(1-10 May 1945 Incl:)

1 MAY 1945

Battalion CP moved to OBERAU, GERMANY. The Rcn Platoons and gun companies continued advancing with the infantry regiments. No casualties reported.

2 MAY 1945

Battalion CP Moved to PARTENKIRCHEN, GERMANY, and HQ Co. Rear moved to OBERAU, GERMANY. The following Officer and EM were killed at 0935 hrs, on the outskirts of SCHARNITZ, AUSTRIA, while spearheading the task force heading for INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA: 1st Lt. JOSEPH L. KEEBY, S/Sgt LeRoy Williams, Tec 5 Austin Johnson, Tec 5 Robert L. Smith, Pfc James C. Harper, Pfc Jerome W. Whitfield; Pvt Thomas J. Phillips was seriously wounded and Pvt Clifton Moody was captured in the same engagement. The gun companies continued the attack with the infantry regiments.

3 MAY 1945

Bn. CP moved to HALL, AUSTRIA. One platoon from Co. "C" jumped off with the task force headed for Brenner at 0245 hrs. The other units assembled in and around INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA.

4 MAY 1945

Hq.Co. Rear moved to HALL, AUSTRIA. No other activity for period.

5 MAY 1945

No change in situation. Maintenance of clothing and equipment stressed during day.

6 MAY 1945


All units of battalion reverted to Bn's control. The area assigned to the battalion for policing was subdivided among the rcn platoons and companies. Battalion placed on the alert for movement to new area.

7 MAY 1945

Battalion moved to the area LEUTASCH, AUSTRIA. Guard posts and road blocks established, and Military Government rulings put into effect. Liason made with adjacent units and coordination effected. Training program outlined.

8-10 MAY 1945

No change in battalion location. Continued in support of Military Government.


FRANK S. PRITCHARD
Lt. Col. Infantry
Commanding .

S-E-C-R-E-T

MARRATIVE REPORT -- UNIT HISTORY

CLIMBACH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION --- MONTH OF MAY 1945

11 MAY 1945

Co. B moved from SEINFELD, AUSTRIA to the town of MOSEINI, AUSTRIA, the new area assigned them to police. No other change in Battalion location.

12 MAY 1945

Maj. Gen. ANTHONY C. McAULIFFE, 103d Inf. Div., personally presented the 3rd Platoon, Co "C" with the Presidential Unit Citation for their outstanding action in the battle for CLIMBACH, FRANCE, on 14 Dec 1944. Captain WALTER S. SMITH, 1st Lt. SERRIO B. NELSON, and 2nd Lt. CHRISTOPHER J. STURGEZ were presented the SILVER STAR by Maj. Gen. McAULIFFE for gallantry in action. Two German Officers were captured in Leutasch, Austria.

13 MAY to 24 MAY 1945

No change in operations during this period. Each company continued in support of the Military Government in their respective sector. Training schedule conducted daily. Maintenance of equipment stressed.

25 MAY to 31 MAY 1945

Maintenance of equipment continued. Units continued police of respective areas in support of Military Government.

Frank S. Pritchard

FRANK S. PRITCHARD
Lt. Col. Infantry
Commanding.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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Narrative for 10 May to 31 May 1945

The narrative for the remaining twenty one days of May must, of course, be descriptive. All offensive action having ceased the battalion has been stationary since coming to Larmos and nothing of signal importance has happened.

As can be noted in the first ten days of the narrative, the battalion was placed on duty as occupation troops in the Larmos - Erwald area in conjunction with the 776 T.D. Battalion.

We carried out these duties, which included operation of road-blocks, screening of civilians, police of the area and supervision of nine hospitals, to the best of our ability until the 13th of May. On 13 May our battalion was relieved of its duty as occupation troops and put on an alert status, ready for an early move to the North, Mannheim, Germany was given as the point where we would make our first stop.

These orders, as indefinite as they were, started many, many rumors floating around. Some said that we were going directly to the C.B.I., while some others were equally as sure that we would see the States again before going to fight the Japs.

Be that all as it may, we immediately went into a training program with vim and vigor. The program consisted of range firing with all weapons, including indirect fire with the 75mm and 76mm guns. We also conducted two hour mountain climbs to get the men back into shape. Then there were a series of overnight bivouacs for the tank companies, stressing all around security and patrolling. There was more than the usual amount of games for sport and recreation.

During the period we had many passes to different parts of the continent. A few men each week went to Paris, Lyon, Nancy and the United Kingdom. All of them returned tired but happy. Lt McCaffrey reports of Nancy "It's terrific, it should'nt happen to a dog." This seemed to be the general concensus of opinion.

About the 16th of May some of our men started drifting back from various hospitals where they had been recovering from wounds or sickness. We were very glad to see them come back. Also we received a number of replacements during the month. We are sloyly but surely coming up to our quota of full strength and plus 2% overstrength.

We lost a few officers during the month. Captain John E Leahy, "B" Company Commander, was transferred, at his own request, to the 114th Infantry Regiment, 44th Infantry Division. We lost Lt Frank P Diliberto to the 42nd Infantry Division. Captain James A Touey was lost to the battalion when he had to go to the hospital. We wish them all the best of luck.

Many of the officers and enlisted men visited different parts of Germany and Austria during the month. Worms, Heidelberg, Augsburg, Weisbaden, and many other cities were visited in Germany and quite a few of the men and officers had the unique experience of drinking beer in Hitlers old Beer Hall in Munich. In Austria, excursions were made to Garmisch Partenkirchen, Oberramagau, Innsbruck and the Brenner Pass. A never failing source of wonder among some of the men is the fact that snow remains on these Tyrolean Alps all the year round while it is so hot in some of the villages.

There were other recreational projects carried on during the month. Movies were shown in the Leitner Theater in Erwald and once we had the orchestra from the 44th Division entertain us. There is also a cable car that runs to the top of Zugspitze (our mountain) from Erwald. A quota was given to us to go to the top of the mountain twice a week for skiing, photography, exploration and a general good time. There is also a cable car in operation on the mountain at Innsbruck and several men each week go there for a sightseeing trip.

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Master

On the 29th of May Lt Hill, S-2, was sent to Augsburg to the Headquarters of the Seventh Army to pick up orders pertaining to the battalion. The information consisted of the fact that we were going back to the States before being redeployed. There were additional instructions about replacements, supply, etc. The only thing that was missing was the question -WHEN? None of us know - there are a lot of rumors at the present time ranging from one week to six months. We are ready to go anytime - our equipments is up to par, and our replacements are nearly so. This matter of waiting is so much harder than actual battle.

During the month we had visits from General Dean, Commanding General of the 44th Infantry Division, who presented the Bronze Star to our C.O. Lt. Col. Spettel. We were also visited by Dr. Wolf, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan and Major Ewing, a Medical Intelligence Officer, who were touring the battle area inspecting war damage and interrogating prisoners.

On the 29th of May a very impressive presentation ceremony was held by the battalion. Three Silver Stars and about fifty Bronze Stars were presented to members of the battalion.

This winds up the narrative for this month. When we write the next one, we hope it can bear the date line "America". In the meantime we are just waiting.

HEADQUARTERS
614TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AP0 758, U. S. Army
29 May 1945

OFFICERS ROSTER

LT COL FRANK S! PRITCHARD	1ST LT SERREO S. NELSON
MAJOR LEROY H! SAMPLE	1ST LT CHARLES J. NELSON
MAJOR ROBERT J. O'LEARY	1ST LT RAYMOND H! POWELL
CAPTAIN JAMES H. CARR	1ST LT CLAUDE W! RAMSEY
CAPTAIN CHARLES J. RICHARD	1ST LT CHARLES C. ROBINSON
CAPTAIN WALTER S. SMITH	1ST LT THOMAS H. SHAW JR
CAPTAIN HARVEY E. JOHNSON	1ST LT ORMAND A! FORTE
CAPTAIN THOMAS M. CAMPBELL	1ST LT FLOYD J. STALLINGS
CAPTAIN CHARLES W. OGELSBY	1ST LT ROBERT S. WILLIAMS
CAPTAIN ROBERT L. FINLEY	1ST LT JESSE S. HICKMAN
1ST LT LEONARD I. BURCH	2ND LT JOHN E. STUBBS Jr
1ST LT EDWARD J. CAREY	2ND LT CHRISTOPHER J. STURKEY
1ST LT MILTON B. DEAS	2ND LT OLIVER S. COX
1ST LT ANDREW J. FAVORS	2ND LT JOHN W. HURNS JR
1ST LT LLOYD A. GREGORY	2ND LT JOSEPH AWKARD
1ST LT PRESTON HELM JR	
1ST LT JOSEPH L. KEEBY	

For the Commanding Officer:

Jesse S. Hickman
JESSE S. HICKMAN
1st Lt., Inf.,
Asst Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 614TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 758, United States Army JSK/aeH

28 May 1945

SUBJECT: Roster of First Three Graders.

To : Whom It May Concern.

The following-named enlisted personnel constitute the first three grades of this organization:

FIRST SERGEANTS

Gordon Brown
Warren J. Glapion
Robert Cannon
Sloan King

MASTER SERGEANTS

Willard L. Hill
Henry Evans

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

Richard H. Irvin
Stonewall Jackson
Fred L. McCain
Giles W. Pearson
Anthony Powell
Charles E. Terry
Isaac Thomas
Amos A. Dashiell
Paul Warner

STAFF SERGEANTS

Smiley T. Easley
Robert E. Fuller
James Holley
Chester L. Perry
Leo S. Smoot, Jr
George W. Tumey
John O. Weir
Columbus Bryant
Lararus L. Garrett
Harvey D. Flemings
Earnest Rogers
Johnnie King
Ester T. Mays
Chester Thomas
Wilbur Turner

Cont'd next page.

STAFF SERGEANTS (CONT'D)

Mitchell Wheeler
Clarence R. Wilson
William G. Williams
John J. Lee
Otis M. Barnes
Benjamin W. Bryant, Jr
Harvey Claybrook
Julian R. Frye
Arthur Page
Lonnie Summers

TECHNICIANS THIRD GRADE

Calvin W. Williams
END

Jesse S. Hickman
JESSE S. HICKMAN
1st Lieut, Inf
Asst Adj