

SECRET

CLASSIFIED TO:
AUTHORITY OF TAG: EAM

HEADQUARTERS
638th Tank Destroyer Battalion

26 Mar 46 HSD
APO 999 U. S. Army
1 June 1945

SUBJECT: History of Operations for May 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

THROUGH: Commanding General, 84th Infantry Division.

1. Authority: Par 10, AR 345-105.

2. Introduction.

- a. Lt Col HAROLD L. DAVIS, O 359 292, PA, Commanding.
Major JAMES D. MC CULLOUGH, O 227 185, PA, Executive.
Major DICKSON I. HIPP, O 297 133, PA, S-3.
Captain, RECTOR PARK, O 306 740, PA, S-2.
CAPTAIN JOHN I. ROBERT, O 1168 882, PA, S-4.
1st Lt FREDRICK A. MLEWIN, O1 822 585, PA, S-1.
Captain RONALD C. HANSON, O 249 645, Inf, Comdg Bq Co.
Captain, DONAL I. WADLEY, O 397 029, PA, Comdg Co A.
Captain, ALONZO J. WILSON, O 393 003, PA, Comdg Co B.
Captain ROBERT R. BLINE, O1 167 072, PA, Comdg Co C.
1st Lt ROBERT E. PARKER, O1 822 610, PA, Comdg Recn Co.
- b. Not applicable.
- c. Period covered: 1 May to 31 May 1945.
- d. Maps used during period: Central Europe 1:100,000 M6, M5, P4.

3. Narrative.

a. Operations.

(1) Company A.

1 - 31 May 1945: On 1 May A Company was employed on patrolling and policing in the vicinity of Kaulitz, Germany. 4 May Company moved to vicinity of Ahrendorf, Germany. 6 May security section of Second Platoon captured 11 German PW's in assigned area. 9 May Third Platoon assigned mission of guarding PW Cage of Battalion at Dahre, Germany. 10 May three German PW's taken into PW Cage at Dahre, Germany and reverted to company control. 16 May company moved approximately 119 miles to Behrensen, Germany. 17 May company moved to vicinity of Harde Rode, Germany.

(2) Company B.

1 - 31 May 1945: 1 May Third Platoon was providing anti-tank defense for 84th Infantry Division CP. Remainder of company on patrolling and policing of assigned area vicinity of Kaulitz, Germany. 4 May Third Platoon relieved of attachment to 84th Infantry Division Headquarters and reverted to Company control at Barnebeck, Germany. Policing in assigned area resulted in capture of 1 German PW. 5 May Roadblocks were set up at Suhlendorf, Germany, Spithal, Germany and Bergen, Germany. Abandoned Mk III tank taken in zone of patrol. 7 May Third Platoon

captured three German PW's at Schnega, Germany. 14 May First Platoon assigned to guard PW enclosure at Dahre, Germany. 16 May Company less First Platoon moved approximately 124 miles to Meyen, Germany. First Platoon relieved of assignment to Battalion PW cage and reverted to company control joining organization at Meyen, Germany.

(3) Company C.

1-31 May 1945: Company less third platoon employed on patrolling and policing vicinity of Kaulitz, Germany. Third Platoon attached to XIII Corps Headquarters for Anti-tank defense. 2 May Patrolling in assigned area resulted in capture of 7 German PW's. 4 May company moved to vicinity of Wiersdorf, Germany. 7 May Third platoon reverted to company control. 16 May company moved to Sorry, Germany.

(4) Reconnaissance Company.

1-18 May 1945: 1 May company employed on patrolling and policing of assigned area in vicinity of Kaulitz, Germany. 4 May company moved to vicinity of Bonese, Germany. 5 May Pioneer Platoon and one section of First Reconnaissance Platoon confined 500 German PW's that had overrun area. 6 May one German PW captured in police of assigned zone. 9 May one officer and six German soldiers captured and turned into battalion PW cage at Dahre, Germany. Focke-Wolfe 190 crash landed in area and was badly damaged. However, pilot was able to escape before troops could effect his capture. 10 May company moved approximately 120 miles to vicinity of Halle, Germany and thence on to Kirchbrak, Germany. 19-31 May 1945 Company in vicinity of Eschershausen engaged in guarding of military targets and police and patrolling of assigned section.

b. Enemy forces.

Due to lack of contact with the enemy with exception of policing and patrolling enemy resistance for the period would be considered nil. Organizations from all conceivable branches of the service would band together not for combat, but for "Share the Ride Service" back to their respective communities. Groups of as high as 500 attempted to return to their homes using such excuses as being discharged 2 days prior to their capture, writing their own discharges etc. Preponderance of troops taken in were mountain units just returned from Italy.

4. Annexes

a. Personnel

- (1) Reinforcements - None.
- (2) Casualties - None
- (3) 44 PW's captured.
- (4) Awards - See Inclosures.

b. Supply and Evacuation.

(1) Ordnance:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 4 - Matches | Replaced |
| 1 - Armorer's Set TB | " |
| 3 - Tool set, Gun Mach | " |
| 1 - Carbine, cal 30 | " |
| 10 - Binoculars N 16 | " |

S E C R E T

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) | Ordinance Cont'd | |
| | 1 - Truck 1/4 ton 4x4 | replaced |
| | 1 - Truck 1/4 ton 4x4 | Evacuated & replaced |
| | 3 - Trailers, M10 | Initial issue |
| | | |
| (2) | Chemical: | |
| | 1 - Kit, chemical Agent Detector | Replaced |
| | | |
| (3) | Medical: | |
| | 2 - Kit, first aid, Gas Casualty | Replaced |
| | 15 - Kit, first aid, 12 unit | " |
| | 1 - Litter | " |
| | | |
| (4) | Signal: | |
| | 5 - Tool Equipment TE 33 | Replaced |
| | | |
| (5) | Quartermaster: | |
| | 1- Desk, field | Replaced |
| | 25 -Bucket, canvas water | " |
| | 4- Bag, delousing | " |
| | 4- Bucket, gen purpose | " |
| | 1- Can, corrugated 16 gal | " |
| | 1- Can " 24 gal | " |
| | 30- Kit sewing | " |
| | 14- Cutter, wire | " |
| | 1- Whistle, thunderer | " |
| | 2- Screen, latrine | " |
| | 1- Tent, pyramidal | " |
| | 6- Lantern, kerosene | " |

c. Enemy material destroyed during month of May 1945 - None.

s/ Harold L. Davis
t/ HAROLD L. DAVIS
Lt Col, FA
Commanding

- 2 - Incls:
 Incl 1 - 24 extract copies of General Orders of Awards.
 Incl 2 - One Unit Journal.