

AFTER ACTION REPORT

— 643 —

Tank Destroyer Battalion

MAY 1945

HIT



HARD

THE FIRST T.D.'S

"ON THE RHINE"

"ACROSS THE ELBE"

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
OVERSIGHTING COMMITTEE

C O N T E N T S

- I OPERATIONS
- II BATTLE LESSONS
- III TROOP LIST
- IV ROSTER OF COMMANDER AND STAFF
- V BATTALION COMMAND POSTS
- VI AWARDS
- VII LOSSES
- VIII APPENDICES

Unit Journal
Reports of Tank Destroyer Operations
S - S Reports
Military Government Reports



S E C R E T**OPERATIONS**

At the beginning of the period, the battalion was attached to the 83d Infantry Division and the companies were further attached to the three RCT's of the division and assisted in the defense of the Elbe River bridgehead. The battalion was relieved of this mission on the 4th of May at which time the companies moved to assembly areas West of the Elbe River.

On 7th of May, 1945 the battalion was assigned the area vicinity Braunlage, Tanne, Walkenreid in the Harz Mountains for military government. During the period of military government, one platoon of Reconnaissance Company occupied the town of Bennackenstein (D0645) to maintain order until military government was established by the 8th Armored Division. On the 15th of May, 1945 the battalion received a TWX, NUSA alerting it for redeployment within 30 days. This was followed by a request for estimate of training situation and training plan to be followed during the period of the alert. The battalion was relieved of its military government duties and moved to vicinity Vienenburg (C9476) and began intensive training in preparation for redeployment.

The intensive training program covers a review of basic military subjects, gunnery, driving, and familiarization with Japanese forces and tactics. It has been designed particularly with a view to developing complete interchangeability of destroyer personnel. Ranges and training areas have been laid out.

On 27 May 1945, the battalion moved to Unit Station (G8904) via Borsdorf to prepare for overseas movement under Part V ETO - SOP No 61-ETO-ICN-RHD.

**S E C R E T**

S E C R E T

BATTLE LESSONS

1. Despite the fact that the war with Germany has been formerly ended, there are still some Germans who continue to fight on. This fact makes it essential that all personnel be armed and constantly on the alert.

2. It has been found that identification papers carried by the German civilians are not a positive means of identification since they are very often forged or stolen. It has been found that all SS troopers have their blood type tattooed under the upper portion of the left arm and also have an injection scar on the right breast. High ranking party officials have had a German swastika tattooed behind their left knee.



S E C R E T

S E C R E T

TROOP LIST

1 - 31 May

Battalion assigned Ninth U.S. Army, attached XIX Corps and further attached to 83d Infantry Division.

Co A - Attached to 329 RCT.
Co B - Attached to 330 RCT.
Co C - Attached to 331 RCT.
Rcn Co - Second Platoon attached to Co A.
Hq Co -

Changes in mission and attachment within battalion during period.

- 020001 - 1st Rcn Platoon attached to Co B.
- 051600 - Battalion relieved of defensive mission on the Elbe River bridgehead.
- 051800 - Battalion attached to 329 RCT and relieved of further attachments.
- 070900 - Battalion relieved attachment XIX Corps and attached to XIII Corps, further attached to 83d Infantry Division and 329 RCT.
- 071200 - Assigned area for military government vicinity Braunklage, Tanne, Walkenreid.
- 080730 - Battalion relieved attachment 329 RCT and attached 453d AAA Bn.
- 081200 - 3d Platoon Co A attached to Co B.
- 081200 - One platoon Rcn attached to Co B.
- 090800 - 3d Plat Co A relieved attachment to Co B.
- 101600 - One Plat Rcn relieved attachment to Co B.
- 181700 - Battalion relieved of military government duties.
- 181700 - Battalion relieved attachment 453d AAA Bn and attached to 83d Infantry Division.
- 270430 - Bn relieved attachment to XIII Corps and 83d Infantry Division and attached to XIX Corps.



S E C R E T

SECRET

BATTALION COMMANDER	Farr, Duille P., Lt Col (1 May to 31 May)	O-291706
BATTALION EXECUTIVE	Gaulke, Ira M.F., Maj (1 May to 31 May)	O-214191
S-1	Miller, Randall A., 1st Lt (1 May to 31 May)	O-1622299
S-2	Robbins, Lewis F., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-302500
S-3	Lang, Ralph W., Maj (1 May to 31 May)	O-242944
S-4	Burgin, Alexander M., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-408923
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	Fostiglione, Michael, 1st Lt (1 May to 31 May)	O-1622453
MOTOR OFFICER	Sunderland, David M., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-454945
BATTALION SURGEON	Formalt, George R., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-511138
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY COMMANDING OFFICER	Kresky, Howard S., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-329437
RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY COMMANDING OFFICER	Peterson, James M., 1st Lt (1 May to 31 May)	O-1622448
COMPANY A COMMANDING OFFICER	Ward, Thomas W., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-1168269
COMPANY B COMMANDING OFFICER	Colt, John E., Capt (1 May to 31 May)	O-1165500
COMPANY C COMMANDING OFFICER	McNabb, Howard S., 1st Lt (1 May to 31 May)	O-1622269



SECRET

010001	to	080980	--	Calbe, Germany
061800	to	191000	--	Braunlage, Germany
191530	to	280430	--	Wienenburg, Germany
281830	to	312400	--	Norddorf, Germany



SECRET

	<u>Bronze Star</u>	<u>Silver Star</u>	<u>Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star</u>
Headquarters	5		
Headquarters Company	7		
Reconnaissance Company	2		
Company "A"	16		
Company "B"	9	2	
Company "C"	7		1
Medical Detachment	4		



MAY - BATTLE CASUALTIES

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>WFO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>WINE & SID</u>
Headquarters Company	0	0	0	1	1	1
Company "A"	0	0	0	4	4	23
Company "B"	0	0	0	1	1	15
Company "C"	0	0	0	1	1	14
Reconnaissance Company	0	0	0	8	8	19
Medical Detachment	0	0	0	1	1	1
Total	0	0	0	16	16	71

