

HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Record of Operations - 1-9 May 1945

At the beginning of the period the battalion (less Company A and the Rear CP) were in an assembly area in the vicinity of GODDINGEN, GERMANY. Company A was across the ELBE River, supporting the 504th Parachute Regiment of the 82d Airborne Division. The Battalion Rear CP was located at KINCHEN, GERMANY.

At 010600 May one (1) destroyer from the 3d Platoon, Company A, struck a large mine which overturned and burned the destroyer.

During the day the 1st and 3d Platoons of Reconnaissance Company continued to support the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and spent the day enlarging the bridgehead over the ELBE River.

At 1000 hours on 1 May the Battalion was detached from the 82d Airborne Division and was attached to the 8th Infantry Division.

Prior to darkness on the 1st of May the Battalion had all elements across the ELBE River and had assembled in the bridgehead area in the vicinity of BAILEN, GERMANY.

Starting at 0600 hours on 2 May the entire Battalion (-Rear CP) engaged in attacking North from BAILEN, GERMANY. The unit was in two (2) columns: Companies B and C, the Forward CP, Reconnaissance Company (-one platoon), were with Task Force ADAMS, along with elements of the 740th Tank Battalion, the 121st Infantry Regiment, and other units; Company A and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company were with Task Force KUNZIG, which also included elements of the 121st Infantry Regiment and other units. An advance of from 35 to 40 miles was made to coordinates (348689), west of SCHWERIN, GERMANY. There was no incident. Cal .50 firing and some small arms were the only weapons used. Two (2) German planes were sighted during the advance. Company A destroyed one (1) enemy liaison plane. Numerous prisoners of war were taken by all participating units. Movement toward the Baltic Sea was halted by division order and at the end of the day the battalion was in the following locations:

97-63.2

Forward CP	FRANKS BATTN
Rear CP	SUTTORF
Company A	Vic 849780
Company B	LALIE RG
Company C	NIELSBORG
Reconnaissance Company 1 ..	FRANKS BATTN

6687

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED BY
CANCELLED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 William D Tapp 1941 AGD
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 22 March 66

On 3 May the Battalion remained in an assembly area and carried on maintenance of materiel, repair and reorganization, in addition to rounding up numerous prisoners of war in and around all unit areas. During the latter part of the day the Rear CP moved into SCHWERIN and the balance of the Bn assembled in Gross ROGALH and Kleiner ROGALH.

At 1800 hours Reconnaissance Company was given the mission of driving and guarding prisoners of war. One platoon began this mission at the end of the day.

During the remainder of the period the entire Battalion assembled in SCHWERIN, GERMANY. All companies were given missions of guarding prisoners of war and administering displaced persons' camps. The period ended with the entire unit engaging in these missions.