

Germany 1,100,000, FRANKFURT, KARLSRUHE, WÜRZBURG, BAMBERG, NÜRNBERG,  
FULDA, SOBERG, REGENSBURG, NORDLINGEN, AUGSBURG, WELTHEIM, LANDSHUT  
MÜNCHEN.

Period Covered: 01 April 1945 to 30 April 1945.

#### DAY BY DAY RECORD OF EVENTS

The 1st of April the Battalion continued supporting the advance of the 45th Infantry Division with TDs providing assault fires, and anti-tank defense in the Division sector, and Reconnaissance Company making extensive reconnaissance in advance of infantry elements. One TD Company attached to each infantry Regiment, and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company attached to each attacking Regiment for Operations proved to be the adopted form of support at the beginning of the period.

"A" and "C" Companies in support of the 179th Infantry Regiment, advanced with leading elements carrying infantry on the TDs, and during the period 70 rounds HE fired at enemy targets in the 0753 grid square, with excellent results, by "A" Company; 87 rounds fired by "C" Company at enemy personnel, tanks, SPs and machine guns, and 20mm flak guns, resulting in many enemy personnel killed or wounded and various machine-gun nests knocked out. "B" Company supporting the 157th Infantry Regiment on the assault of ASCHAFFENBURG, fired 29 rounds APCBDF, and 70 rounds HE at enemy targets in the city. Knocked out one American M-4 tank manned by German crew. Reconnaissance Company, during the period, maintained contact with the 3rd Infantry Division on the right and reconnoitered routes in advance of the 179th Infantry Regiment. On this action TDs and Reconnaissance Company advanced through the towns of GAILBACH, DORRMARSBACH, and OBER-BESSANBACH.

On the 1st of April CO of 645th TD Bn proposed plan of placing the 645th TD Battalion in support of one attacking Regiment and the 191 Tank Battalion in support of the other attacking Regiment. Usually two Regiments attacked abreast with the third in reserve. When all three were employed a company of TDs and a company of tanks were usually attached. Purpose was for better coordination and supply.

02 April - On the 02nd of April "A" and "C" Companies continued in support of the 179th Infantry Regiment with one company supporting each of the two attacking Battalions. Reconnaissance Company also in support of this Regiment maintained contact with the 3rd Infantry Division on the right flank, and reconnoitered along axis of advance in front of TDs and infantry. "B" Company remained with the 157th Infantry Regiment for the final mopping up of ASCHAFFENBURG and vicinity. Knocked out 2 enemy flak wagons vicinity of 032555 with 8 rounds APCBDF and 3 rounds HE and fired 12 rounds APCEDF and 32 rounds HE at enemy personnel in the 0153 and 0253 grid squares.

03 April - The 03rd of April, "C" Company spearheading attack with infantry mounted on the TDs, knocked out an enemy flak-wagon, two half-tracks, 4 field artillery pieces, 1 prime-mover, and captured an 88mm (towed) intact. Also fired 53 rounds HE at enemy personnel in the AURA area, inflicting heavy casualties. Company "A" followed up the attack with the 1st Battalion, prepared to pass through "C" Company. Reconnaissance Company continued contact mission and reconnoitered in advance of the infantry. Took 13 PWs vicinity of 245745. "B" Company remained in support of 157th Infantry Regiment and assembled with respective Battalions after the fall of ASCHAFFENBURG at 0900 hours.

04 April - On the morning of the 04th of April "A" Company passed through "C" Company who in turn reverted to Regimental reserve. No change in Reconnaissance mission.

A party led by the Battalion Commander consisting of Reconnaissance platoon section, and a section of the Pioneer platoon plus one "C" Company TD, cleared a road block vicinity of 275795 and advanced down the road capturing 20 PWs. The Battalion CP Group, constituting the reserve followed the advance. At 1500A the leading group engaged approximately 150 Krauts, armed with automatic weapons and Panzer Fausts. The Battalion CP Group joined in the fray and assisted in killing and wounding a large number of the superman and the taking of 63 PWs. Losses were one 1/4 ton destroyed by enemy small arms fire and one man missing.

3 rounds HE at enemy personnel vicinity of SIEBENHAGEN, 30 rounds HE at enemy personnel in the town of VOLKERS, and 6 rounds HE at enemy personnel vicinity of 472973, inflicting many casualties on the enemy. "C" Company followed the advance of "A" Company blocking roads on the exposed right flank of the 179th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance Company maintained aggressive motorized patrols in advance of the infantry and continued contact missions of the flanks. At approximately 1600H, the Battalion Commander, and the G-3 for the 45th Infantry Division riding down the road in a 1/4 ton were fired on by an enemy machine-gun cutting the road vicinity of 438968 (south of SPEICHERZ). The Jeep was knocked out and the occupants were badly burned when the raw gas from the punctured gas tank ran into the small ditch they were using for cover. Captain Morgan, then the Executive Officer, assumed command of the Battalion, and before the end of the day the towns of SPEICHERZ, KOTHEN and WERBURG were added to the ever increasing list of captured towns. At 1800 hours the Battalion CP moved into the town of SPEICHERZ.

06 April - The 06th of April found no change in attachments. "A" Company fired 3 rounds APCBDZ at an enemy tank or SP in NEUGLASHUTTEN, causing it to withdraw. "C" Company fired 25 rounds HE at enemy personnel vicinity of MOTTEN, inflicting many casualties. Reconnaissance Company maintained contact missions on the flanks and during the period killed one kraut and took 7 PWs.

07 April - On the 07th of April the pltn of "A" Company and 1 platoon of "C" Company caught an enemy column on the road vicinity of UNTER ELSBACH (705-058), taking approximately 30 PWs (including the commanding officer), and chalking up the following destroyed enemy materiel: 1 SP (149-150mm), 1 towed (149-150mm), 1-88mm flak gun (four wheeled), 1-75mm Infantry Howitzer, 3 mortars (81mm), 4 Volkswagons, 1 C&R, 1 truck loaded with radio equipment, 1 full track prime mover, 1 trailer full of ammunition, and several motorcycles and Bicycles. "C" Company also fired a total of 53 rounds HE at enemy personnel vicinities of 695054, 598063 and 704073. At 1600H, "B" Company rejoined the Battalion and at 2300H the entire Battalion, closed in assembly area vicinity of STETTEN (706128).

08 April - The following morning at 0500H the entire Battalion pushed off from STETTEN with the 179th Infantry Regiment. "A" Company supporting the 2nd Battalion, "C" Company supporting the 3rd Battalion. 2 platoons of Reconnaissance Company with a platoon of "B" Company's TDs, plus a platoon of infantry attached to each Reconnaissance Platoon moved out 30 minutes in advance of the attacking Battalions, with the mission to feel out the enemy in the zone of advance. At 1030H "B" Company fired on an estimated 1200 enemy personnel running across Hill #308 (862933), killing and wounding unknown number of Krauts. At 1300H fired the 90mm and .50 Cal. Machine-gun at enemy personnel and vehicle vicinity of GR. WECKEIM (836876), destroying 2 horse drawn wagons and killing some enemy personnel. At 1800H knocked out an 80wheeled scout car, mounting a 47mm gun, 1 wagon, 2 horses, 1 motorcycle, 2 trucks, 1 command car, 1 Volkswagen, and one captured American 1/2 track on the outskirts of OBERLAURINGEN. At 1700H, "C" Company destroyed 6 GP vehicles and 2 trailers loaded with radio equipment. "A" Company destroyed 2-105mm Howitzers 2 prime movers and killed the crews plus 2 officers vicinity of 918795. Reconnaissance Company operating in 2 groups in advance of the infantry (main body), one group moved into GR.-BARDOF (875888), knocking out 2 horse drawn wagons and one motorcycle with the M-8s. Continuing on down the road ran into an enemy column and destroyed all the horse-drawn wagons and one scout car. All vehicles knocked out with the 37mm on the M-8s. The other group of Reconnaissance company engaged enemy in fire-fight vicinity of KL. WEINKHEIM (815970) at 1300H killing some and taking 6 PWs. Continuing on they ran into more resistance vicinity of SEUBERGSHAUSEN, which was quickly cleaned up, resulting in numerous Krauts killed, and 6 more PWs. In the town of THEINFELD after a lightning advance they took 150 PWs, part of the 2nd Pz SS Division, after taking them by surprise. The advance continued on to OBER-LAURINGEN, which proved to be fanatically held by Reconnaissance troops of the 2nd Pz SS Division. After a stiff fire-fight Reconnaissance Company with the help of "B" Company's TDs, and a platoon of infantry took over 200 PWs in the town and captured many enemy vehicles of all types. Forward elements of the Battalion CP Group and the Battalion CO engaged enemy personnel in a small arms battle on the south end of OBERLAURINGEN, losing one 1/4 ton and 2 motorcycles by enemy hand grenades. The Battalion S-3 entered the town in an effort to bring TD fire on enemy strong points and was killed by sniper fire. 2 TDs of "B" Company moved in to town firing on targets of opportunity killing and wounding 20-30 enemy.

Company fired 20 rounds HE at enemy personnel on hill NE of BIRNELL with good effect. At 1800B the entire Battalion closed in assembly area in AUB-STADT (922962) where they remained the following day, and conducted much needed maintenance on vehicles.

11 April - On the 11th of April, at 1630B, the attack to the SE, in support of the 179th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance Company led the advance followed up by TDs and infantry, and during the course of the day the following towns were cleared: HOFELM, JUNKERSDORF, KONIGSBERG, BISCHWIND, and UNFINDEN. Scattered resistance was met along the route and "E" and "F" Companies fired 90mm shells at enemy personnel and dug-in positions on high ground E of JUNKERSDORF and UNFINDEN.

12 April - The 12th of April found no change in missions. "A" Company continued in direct support of the 1st Battalion, advancing through the towns of KIRCHLAUTER and LUSSEBERG. At 1100B fired 224 rounds HE and 11 rounds APCBDF at enemy personnel dug in vicinity of KIRCHLAUTER, inflicting heavy casualties. "B" Company moved with the reserve Battalion and at 1530B were relieved from present attachments and ordered to move to FLSHBACH (162740) to support the 157th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company continued in direct support of the 2nd Battalion advancing through the towns of ALTERHAUSEN and BLESENNAU. At 1000B fired 20 rounds HE at enemy personnel with bazookas in the town of ALTERHAUSEN. During the afternoon fired 127 rounds HE and 26 rounds APCBDF at enemy personnel 111585 and 130587. The 2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company working in front of the 2nd Battalion ran into small arms and bazooka fire on the KONIGSBERG - ALTERHAUSEN road, resulting in one M-8 being damaged by bazooka fire. The 4th platoon Reconnaissance Company working in advance of the 1st Battalion, passed through the town of KIRCHLAUTER where their last vehicle, a 1 1/4 ton, was fired on by civilians with machine pistols. In the ensuing fire fight, 2 men were killed and one wounded, and one M-8 and 2-1/4 tons damaged.

13 April - On the 13th "A" Company remained in assembly vicinity of DEUSDORF (174580). "B" Company supporting the 157th Infantry Regiment in their advance on the city of BAMBERG, fired 64 rounds HE and 11 rounds APCBDF, knocking out 2 enemy trucks and 1 artillery piece vicinity of 352582. Also inflicted heavy casualties on enemy personnel vicinity of SCHESZLITZ. TDs of "C" Company advanced with the 179th Infantry Regiment to the MAIN River (The last barrier on the N side of BAMBERG) and assembled vicinity of OBERHAID. During the period fired 60 rounds HE at enemy personnel vicinities of 237528, 215555, and enemy road block vicinity of 165565. Reconnaissance Company continued in advance of infantry and TDs and maintained contact with the 180th Infantry Regiment on the left flank. The 3rd platoon working with 2nd Battalion 179th Infantry Regiment fired 37mm and 30 Cal. machine-gun at enemy personnel taking 92 PWs. BAMBERG taken in the evening by the 180th Infantry Regiment.

During the night the Battalion (minus "B" Company) moved to assembly area vicinity of MEMMELSDORF, across the MAIN River NE of BAMBERG and the following morning pushed off supporting advance of the 179th Infantry Regiment.

14 April - "A" Company fired 205 HE, 16 rounds APCBDF and .50 Caliber machine gun at enemy personnel along the axis of advance from the town of WERNSDORF, along the SIEGENDORF, BUTTENHEIM, BOGOSHEIM road, killing a large number of enemy and knocking out over 4 machine-gun nests. "C" Company knocked out 2 motorless enemy tanks (MK IV, and V) with 3 rounds of APCBDF. Tanks were emplaced on edge of town vicinity of 323437 with crews manning the guns. Also fired 66 rounds HE at enemy personnel vicinity of 323437 and 405340. Reconnaissance Company leading the advance fired 37mm and .30 Cal. machine-gun at enemy personnel vicinity of LEESTEN, WOPMSDORF, 364446 and 320455, killing and wounding a large number of enemy and taking 32 PWs. During the action one M-8 hit by bazooka fire - No casualties.

15 April - On the 15th of April the attack continued with the city of NURNBERG as the ultimate objective. "A", "C" and Reconnaissance Companies attached to the 179th Infantry Regiment and "B" Company attached to the 157th Infantry Regiment. On the push "A" Company destroyed 2 flakwagons and a horse drawn cart vicinity of 425333 and fired 86 rounds HE and 37 rounds APCBDF at enemy personnel, inflicting heavy casualties. "B" Company fired 4 rounds APCBDF and 25 rounds HE, knocking out 2 enemy trucks vicinity of 483360, and one flak-wagon vicinity 476364. "C" Company destroyed 1 small caliber AT gun and the crew using 6 rounds HE. Fired 55 rounds HE, knocking out 2 AA guns (88mm), 3 trucks, and inflicting many casualties. An additional 61 rounds HE accounted for 5 enemy trucks vicinity of 418225, and small barreled 75mm AT gun and 2 ammunition wagons on the outskirts of FORTH. Three 88mm guns vicinity of 478-250 were destroyed with 4 rounds HE, by other "C" Company guns. Reconnaissance Company led the attack with 2 platoons advancing ahead of lead infantry element.

with the enemy vicinity of HILFENHOF reconnaissance personnel killed 10 and captured 25 PWs.

16 April - The following day the drive on NURNBERG continued with "B" Company and "C" Company and Reconnaissance Company and "A" Company supporting the 157th Infantry Regiment. At 0730B forward elements of the 45th Infantry Division advanced into the outskirts of NURNBERG from the NE. "B" Company fired 52 rounds HE and 24 rounds APCBDF at enemy personnel on the outskirts of the city vicinity of 460030 and destroyed 2 enemy trucks vicinity 460052. "C" Company fired 35 rounds HE and 60 rounds APCBDF at enemy troops and 2-88mm guns vicinity 551060, knocking out guns and capturing personnel. Reconnaissance Company continued reconnaissance mission and maintained contact with the 180th Infantry Regiment and the 3rd Infantry Division on the left and right flanks respectively.

17 April - On the 17th of April "B" Company fired 6 rounds HE and 4 rounds APCBDF at enemy tower vicinity 472001 scoring 10 hits. "C" Company fired 16 rounds APCBDF and 58 rounds HE at enemy personnel, houses and pillboxes vicinity 465016. At 1300 hours, one platoon Reconnaissance Company and one platoon of "C" Company's TDs, under the command of the Bn S-3, moved to vicinity of HILFENHOF, GERMANY (585240), to investigate enemy tanks reported in that vicinity. Found one German TD abandoned in HILFENHOF, and after destroying guns, the TASKFORCE moved on to WILDENFELS, when more tank tracks were found but due to darkness the chase was called off. The next morning found 2 more abandoned enemy TDs (CZECH TYPE) vicinity of REIPERTSBERG (636246). After destroying and burning enemy tanks, both platoons returned to parent units. During the period the Battalion continued assault on NURNBERG with infantry elements, meeting stiff resistance. "A" Company with the 157th Infantry Regiment fired 53 rounds HE and 17 rounds APCBDF at houses and enemy personnel vicinity 405-990 and 422998. "B" Company shot down an enemy CUB PLANE, mounting 2 Panzerfausts under each wing, with .50 cal. machine gun fire from the TDs. The plane did fire at the destroyers moving down the Eisenbahn in column but did no damage. "C" Company fired 23 rounds HE at machine-gun and snipers in buildings vicinity 45-08. Reconnaissance Company maintained contact mission, while the pioneer platoon cleared mines and booby traps on road vicinity 551031. At 1100 hours Battalion CP moved to vicinity LEINBERG, GERMANY 585007.

19 April - On the 19th of April "B" Company, "C" Company and Reconnaissance Company attached to the 179th Infantry Regiment with mission of providing AT defense on the defensive line being held on the south side of NURNBERG in case of possible counter-attack from that direction. "A" Company attached to the 157th Infantry Regiment fired 53 rounds HE and 17 rounds APCBDF at houses and enemy personnel vicinity of 410995, 415994, 438998 and 422998. "B" Company knocked out and destroyed one 88mm (towed) vicinity of 430985 with one round of APCBDF. At 1400B Battalion CP moved into NURNBERG (425948).

20 April - On the 20th of April "A" Company continued with the 157th Infantry Regiment assisting in the mopping up of scattered resistance in NURNBERG. "B" and "C" Companies maintained AT defensive positions in the 179th Infantry Regiment sector and Reconnaissance Company maintained OPs and reconnoitered roads in same sector. At 1400 hours on the 21st the entire Battalion moved to assembly areas vicinity of WENDELSTEIM (477890), and the following pushed off with the 179th Infantry Regiment to the south. TDs of "B" and "C" Companies advanced with infantry elements and Reconnaissance Company, and advanced through the towns of ROTH, WEINSBACH, OBERMAUK, NIEDERMAUK, ROTTENBACH, LIEBENSTADT and WALTING. Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered in advance of infantry elements and maintained contact with the 14th Armored Division on the left and the 147th Infantry Regiment on the right. In the late afternoon the lead M-8 attempting to enter the town of PLEINFELD, was hit by enemy bazooka fire causing 2 casualties to crew and 3 casualties to infantry personnel riding on the M-8. In the same action "B" Company's TDs fired 25 HE at enemy Infantry vicinity 383620 and into the town of PLEINFELD. "A" Company followed the advance with the reserve Infantry Battalion.

23 April - The 23rd attachments remained the same. TDs of "B" Company advanced through the towns of PLEINFELD, ELLINGEN, WEISENBERG and DETTENHEIM and fired 67 HE at enemy personnel in buildings in the 3654 and 3448 grid squares and 15 HE at enemy OPs vicinity 362535, 322444 and 340430. "C" Company advanced through WALTING, ETTENSTATT, OBERHOCHSTATT, SUPFERHEIM, HEUDORF and GOHREN. During the advance fired 115 rounds HE and 2 rounds APCBDF at enemy infantry and buildings vicinity 419558, 404479 and 389526 and that night knocked out a Germany Staff Car vicinity of GOHREN. Reconnaissance Company supporting attacking Battalions of the 179th Inf Regt with 1 pltn each. During the afternoon an M-8 advancing in front of the 1st Battalion, destroyed by enemy artillery-fire vicinity 348482, inflicting 2 casualties.

alerted to be prepared to garrison communities east of MUNICHEN and establish road blocks leading into the city. Battalion CP moved into the city of MUNICHEN (882578) at 1000B.

*Edward L. Austin*  
EDWARD L. AUSTIN  
Lt Col., Field Artillery  
Commanding

ANNEX "A" - Administrative Report  
ANNEX "B" - Enemy Tank hunting Episode.

3 incls  
Unit Journals  
Messages  
Intelligence Summary

-6-

C O N F I D E N T I A L

## I. - NARRATIVE

1. Six enlisted men and two officers departed for the United States during the month for 45 days of rest.

2. The following changes in duties and assignments of officers were made during the month of April within the Battalion.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE FROM</u>	<u>ASCD TO</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Capt RICHARD B. KOCS, O-451638, FA	C.O.	S-3	13 April 45
1st Lt JACK W. LINDBERG, O-1823885 FA(TD)	Co. B. LNO Hqs	Hqs C.O. Co. B.	13 April 45
1st Lt TROY G. GARRETT JR., O-1823139, FA(TD)	Ex. Off. Co. A.	Ex. Off. Hq. Co.	13 April 45
1st Lt ALPHONSO MUSCENTE O-1822715, FA(TD)	Commo. Off. Hqs.	Ex. Off. Rcn. Co.	15 April 45
1st Lt ALPHONSO MUSCENTE O-1822715, FA(TD)	Ex. Off. Rcn. Co.	C.O. Rcn. Co.	27 April 45

3. On 22 April, the two Dental Officers from the 5th T. D. Group were relieved from attachment to the Battalion.

4. 1st Lt TROY G. GARRETT JR. was placed on Temporary Duty with the POW Displacing Camp, per VCOG 45th Infantry Division.

## II. - PROMOTIONS

1. Captain JERRY B. MORGAN, O-420941, FA, was promoted to the rank of Major, per S.O.#113, Hqs, Seventh Army, 23 April 1945, via Battlefield Promotion.

2. The following officers were given Battlefield Promotions per S.O. #100, Hqs, Seventh Army, 10 April 1945:

1st Lt JAMES B. MACCOLL, O-1822891, FA(TD)  
1st Lt WALTER C. KENNEDY, O-1823835, FA(TD)  
1st Lt CHARLES L. BASTION, O-1823689, FA(TD)

3. 1st Sgt Kenneth D. MacDonald, Co A, 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion was commissioned a Second Lieutenant by way of a Battlefield Appointment per S.O. #122, Hqs, Seventh Army, 28 April 1945.

## III. - CASUALTIES

The casualty rate for the Battalion was extremely high during this month. One officer was killed in action and one officer died of wounds. Six enlisted men were killed in action and one enlisted man was missing in action. Three officers were wounded in action and ten enlisted men were wounded in action.

## IV. - ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

Lt Col EDWARD L. AUSTIN, O-311026	Commanding Officer
Major PAUL W. PRIOR, O-394217	Executive Officer
Major JERRY B. MORGAN, O-420941	S-3
Capt RICHARD B. KOCS, O-451638	S-2
Capt WILLIAM M. WESTFALL, O-205588	S-4
1st Lt VERNON S. SMELTZER, O-1822741	S-1
Capt EDWARD T. NAUGHTEN, O-435642	C.O., Hq. Co.
1st Lt PHILIP A. DOHERTY, O-1167809	C.O., Co A.
1st Lt JACK W. LINDBERG, O-1821885	C.O., Co B.
Capt WILLIAM A. OITTO, O-418306	C.O., Co C.
1st Lt ALPHONSO MUSCENTE, O-1822715	C.O., Rcn Co.

## V. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS - None.

VI. SUMMARY. \* Administrative details were very light during the month of April, due mostly to the Battalion being engaged with the enemy for a full month period.

23 May 1945

**Subject:** Intelligence Summary, 45th Infantry Division Sector  
From 01 April 1945 to 03 May 1945.  
To accompany Battle Report for same period.

**Maps :** Germany 1/100,000 FRANKFURT, MANNHEIM, NURNBERG, BAMBERG, WURZBERG, FULDA, COBURG, REGENSBURG, NORDINGEN, AUGSBURG, WEILHEIM, LANDSHUT and MUNCHEN.

The German Army received its death blows during the month of April and surrendered unconditionally to the Allies on 07 May 1945.

In the 45th Infantry Division sector, the enemy continued its fanatic defense of ASCHAFFENBURG at the beginning of the period and held out until the 03 of April when the town fell. On April 14, BAMBERG was cleared with little difficulty but the enemy made another strong stand in NURNBERG which fell in the path of the Division on the 20th April. Resistance at MUNICH at the end of the month was strong but not as strong as expected; indicating the end of German resistance in the south. Other than resistance at these cities and at the DANUBE, only delaying actions including small amount of demolitions was encountered.

Enroute to MUNICH, the Division liberated 32,000 political prisoners from the infamous SS guarded DACHAU concentration camp. DACHAU'S crematorium, gas chamber, and piles of emaciated corpses gave visible and conclusive evidence of what some had labeled 'PROPAGANDA'.

Enemy units contacted by Division during the period included elements of the 2d Pz Division, 256 Infantry Division, 36 Infantry Division, 79 VG Division, 2d SS Mtn Division. Also encountered were a miscellany including VOLKSTURM units, Training and Replacement Battalions, Hitler Youth, etc.

ENEMY ARMOR REPORTED DURING PERIOD IN DIV SECTOR:

DATE	NUMBER	PLACE
01 April	2	ASCHAFFENBURG
04 April	3	METTIGERS (N3690)
05 April	1	STERBERTZ (N3492)
	2	HOTTENHAUSEN (H4707)
08 April	1	N869944
12 April	4	BAMBERG
15 April	1	493337
17 April	1	HILPOLTSTEIN (O440033)
	2	0616237
23 April	6	WEISZEMBURG
24 April	1	290306
	2	300305
25 April	85	BERTOLSHEIM (Civ Report)
26 April	1	T-362199
	1	BURGHEIM
27 April	1	442120
	1	383102
28 April	1	NIEDTHANN

Enemy Material destroyed and captured by this Battalion during period:

2 MK IV Tanks  
1 MK V Tank  
7 SP Gun  
21 Combat Vehicles  
46 General Purpose Vehicles  
21 Towed AT Guns  
15 Towed Artillery Pieces  
11 Machine Gun Nests  
1034 PWs captured  
1 Enemy Cub Plane destroyed.

Report of 03 May 1945 in ITALY, FRANCE AND GERMANY.

3 MK III Tanks  
27 MK IV Tanks  
12 MK V Tanks  
35 MK VI Tanks  
15 SP Guns  
36 Combat Vehicles  
88 General Purpose Vehicles  
40 Towed AT Guns  
36 Towed Artillery Pieces  
21 Pillboxes  
27 Machine Gun Nests  
3 Mortars  
1 Cub Plane  
1588 Prisoners of War.

Unknown number of enemy personnel killed and wounded; unknown amount of enemy miscellaneous equipment (Carts, trailers, horses, small arms, bazookas etc., destroyed).

For the Commanding Officer

*R. B. Koos*  
R. B. KOOS  
Captain, FA,  
S-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

On April 17, 1945 a patrol consisting of the 3rd platoon of Reconnaissance Company led by Sgt McDonald and the 2nd platoon, Company "C" led by Lt Jongeward, received the mission of proceeding to the village of HILPOLTSTEIN, GERMANY, to investigate an enemy tank that been reported in the town. The patrol proceeded up the main highway from FORTH to GRAFFENBURG and turned right on a secondary road to the village of BILLING, then to ERLASTRUT. From ERLASTRUT it proceeded in the direction of WINTERSTEIN, but in the meantime was contacted by a French PW who stated that the Village of ST. HELENA, which was the next village we were to pass through, was occupied by approximately 30 enemy. The French PW volunteered to direct us to ST. HELENA which he did. On the outskirts of the village the patrol deployed and formed a semicircle around the city consisting of one (1) M-8 armored car w/37mm gun on one flank covering the main entrance and one (1) M-20 armored car w/.30 cal. machine gun on the other flank covering the exit. 4 - 1/4 ton C&Rs mounting .30 cal. machine guns were in position between the two armored cars. French PW was sent into the village to determine whether or not the enemy were still there with instructions to try to persuade the enemy to surrender if they were. Upon returning he informed us that there were no enemy in the village. We then entered the village and picked up one (1) PW who was a discharged Wehrmacht soldier but who had been fighting in the Volksturm. The CIC Officers accompanying us picked up a woman who two days before had been working in the equivalent to our G-2 section of the German Army in NURNBURG. The woman was taken with them for questioning with regard to installations and personnel in the City of NURNBURG. We then proceeded to the village of HILPOLTSTEIN and found that the enemy tank had been abandoned and that a soldier from the 191st Tank Battalion had placed an incendiary grenade in the chamber of the gun. We destroyed the Radio and sighting equipment while there. A German civilian who spoke English reported to us that three enemy tanks had passed through the village of SCHOSSARITZ, in which he lived, and had stopped about 500 yards on the other side about an hour before. A foot patrol was organized and we proceeded to this village to reconnoiter positions that we could move the TDs into to fire on the enemy tanks if they were still there. When we reached the village we discovered that the tanks had left about an hour before. Upon learning this we returned to HILPOLTSTEIN to return to our unit but on arriving there learned that in our absence a SOLDIER out of the Engineers had reported to one of the men that an enemy tank had been abandoned in the village of MOCHS, between two buildings. We then proceeded to this village in the M-20 to see if this was correct. Upon arriving we made a thorough search of the village but could find no enemy tanks and upon questioning the civilians found that three enemy tanks had passed through the village about one hour before. This was corroborated by the tracks we found in the village. We then followed the tracks to the village of ALMOS and across the main road to the southeast for about 3000 yards. At this point it was getting dark and it was decided that due to the fact that the tanks were a little more than an hour ahead of us that we could do no more that day and returned to the assembly area in the vicinity of GRAFFENBURG. The Reconnaissance Platoon and TD platoon were instructed to remain there until they received further orders from me. I then returned to the Battalion CP to report to the CO. Upon reporting to the CO it was decided that Reconnaissance Platoon would try to trail the tanks next morning which orders were forwarded to them.

On the morning of 18 April 1945 the patrol left GRAFFENBURG to continue the mission. The tracks were picked up in the vicinity of the place we had left the evening before but as the tanks had gone across country it was necessary to follow them afoot. Lt Jongeward and Sgt McDonald, led the patrol afoot followed by the 1/4 tons. Upon reaching a position to the south of REIPERTESGEE they stopped to observe the terrain ahead and picked up the enemy tanks about 200 yards east of the village but were unable to determine whether or not they were manned. Lt Jongeward and Sgt McDonald and Sgt Jack then proceeded on foot skirting the town through the woods to the east to try to determine whether or not the tanks were manned and to locate positions

... returned to the vehicles and received a radio message that Sgts Astraski, Hand and four other men had entered the town and were at the position of the enemy tanks and that they were not manned. Upon receiving this information the destroyers were moved into positions where they could destroy the enemy tanks. This done they then made a thorough search of the woods in the near vicinity of the vehicles but could not find the crews of the tanks. The patrol then returned to HILFOLSTEIN and towed the one enemy tank that was blocking the street out into a nearby field and totally destroyed it. The patrol then returned to their units.

*R. B. KOS*

R. B. KOS  
Captain, FA  
S-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L