

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS  
648th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

31 May 1945

SUBJECT: After action report.

TO : Third Army (Attention Historian).

1 May 45. Battalion CP at WEISENBERG, A & B companies at INGOL\* STADT, C company at GUNZENHAUSEN. Battalion performing security missions and guarding captured enemy installations; such as military equipment, PW hospitals, food, clothing, etc. Company A guards fired on two intruders and wounded one German soldier. Battalion took 150 prisoners.

2 May 45. Battalion CP group; consisting of Bn Comdr, S-1, S-2, S-3 and one reconnaissance platoon; left WEISENBERG for FREISING. Remainder of Headquarters company stayed in WEISENBERG, to move on the following day. Companies A & B destroyed captured enemy artillery pieces which they had been guarding.

3 May 45. Headquarters company moves to FREISING. Company C moves to FREISING. 2nd reconnaissance platoon placed on SD with 8th TD Group by VCOO. Battalion continues security missions in new locations.

4 May 45. Battalion CP, Headquarters company, and company C located in city of FREISING. Companies A & B located in INGOLSTADT. Battalion still performing security missions in III Corps rear area, among them the guarding of a large PWE in INGOLSTADT. All companies are screening the towns in which they are located.

5 May 45. Battalion turned in to Ordnance, a large amount of captured enemy small arms, ammunition and explosives. All companies still performing security missions.

6 May 45. 1st reconnaissance platoon screening small towns in the vicinity of FREISING. Battalion is experiencing difficulty in the form of outbursts of violence, mainly rape, assault and looting, committed by displaced personnel and liberated allied prisoners of war; who are present in the city of FREISING in great numbers. Approximately 150 patients from hospital in FREISING were evacuated to LANDSHUT by this organization. Routine security missions were continued.

7 May 45. at 1500 Hrs today, the following message was received at battalion CP from 8th TD Group; "1,000 SS troops, supported by tanks and artillery, are reported to be advancing on FREISING from a point approximately 4Km north of the city". Immediate reconnaissance by the 1st reconnaissance platoon and elements of company C, proved the report to be erroneous. Col STEWENS, battalion Commander, is working in conjunction with the AMG in FREISING in an attempt to curb the outbursts of violence prevalent among displaced personnel and liberated PWS there. A recommendation for the earliest possible evacuation of these people was made. 300 PWS were received at FREISING in trucks published by this Battalion and were received at FREISING in trucks

S E C R E T

After Action Report (Contd)

8 May 45. All companies carrying on routine patrolling and security missions. Three installations previously guarded by the battalion were taken over by another organization.

9 May 45. Major ERKKILA, Bn S-3, visits 8th TD Group Headquarters to arrange for the evacuation displaced personnel and liberated Allied prisoners of war. A new ammunition dump was discovered and is now being guarded. Companies carrying on routine patrols etc.

10 May 45. 600 displaced personnel were evacuated to HAMBURG by the battalion. The Commanding Officer and Staff of the 333rd FA Group spent the night at this CP in preparation for move into PREISING to take over part of the installations currently guarded by the battalion.

11 May 45. The 14th Armd Div contacted the battalion and is making arrangements for the relief of all installations secured by the battalion at this time. Advance detail leaves for the Landkreis of FURTH.

12 May 45. All secured installations relieved as of 1200 Hrs this date. WOCO received for the battalion to move to LANGENZENN in the Landkreis of FURTH on 130600 May 45.

13 May 45. Battalion moves from PREISING to LANGENZENN. IP, PREISING; IP time, 0600; Order of march; Company C, Headquarters Company, Companies A and B. Entire battalion bivouaced the night 13 May to 14 May, one Km north of LANGENZENN.

14 May 45. Headquarters Company and battalion CP set up in ZIRNDORF. Company A moves into LANGENZENN. Companies B and C remain bivouaced in the woods approximately 1 Km north of LANGENZENN. The 1st reconnaissance platoon takes over the security of 4 bridges in the vicinity of FURTH at 1800; remainder of the battalion is awaiting assignment.

15 May 45. Battalion performing first echelon maintenance while awaiting further security assignments.

16 May 45. Company C moves into the Stadtkreis of FURTH to assume responsibility for the screening and policing of the city, and for certain security points in the vicinity. The AMG and CIC in the city were contacted regarding the companies' activities in the town.

17 May 45. Major ERKKILA goes to INGOLSTADT to investigate the circumstances of the retention there of the 2nd platoon of company B, guarding a large PWE; and if possible to determine how long it will be until they are released.

18 May 45. Company B preparing to move from vicinity of LANGENZENN to VACH. Several new security installations were taken over by the battalion today; bridges and an ammunition factory. The 2nd reconnaissance platoon was relieved from SD 8th TD Group as of 1200 Hrs this date by WOCO.

After Action Report (Contd)

19 May 45. Anti-fraternization patrol set by the 2nd reconnaissance platoon in the vicinity of ZIRNDORF. Battalion continues routine patrolling and security missions.

20 May 45. All companies continuing routine security and patrolling missions in assigned areas.

21 May 45. All companies continuing routine security and patrolling missions in assigned areas.

22 May 45. The 2nd platoon of Company B moves from INGOLSTADT, where they had been guarding a large POW, to VACH to rejoin the rest of the company. Battalion received 12 M-18 Tank Destroyer vehicles and one T-41 personnel carrier. The M-18s were issued, four to each letter company. Battalion continuing routine security and patrolling missions.


23 May 45. All companies continuing routine patrolling and security missions in their assigned areas.

24 May 45. Battalion received WOCO to re-organize into a self propelled Tank Destroyer Battalion. All companies continuing routine patrolling and security missions in assigned areas.

25 May 45. All companies continuing routine patrolling and security missions in their assigned areas.

26 May 45. Reconnaissance company organizes and moves into quarters in the city of ZIRNDORF. Other companies continuing routine patrolling and security missions in their assigned areas.

27 May to 31 May 45. Entire battalion performing routine security and patrolling missions in its assigned areas, the Landkreis and Stadtkreis of FURTH.



LOUIS E. HONINGER  
Major, FA (TD)  
Actg Bn S-3

HEADQUARTERS  
648th TAND DESTROYER BATTALION

