

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
648TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 758

4 May 1945

SUBJECT@

TO :

1 April to 11 April 45. Battalion CP was at WESELBERG! The battalion had no action this period and all the companies spent the major part of their time in first echelon maintenance of equipment and personnel. The companies were located in small towns in the vicinity of WESELBER, and each company carried on outposts and patrols for the security of the towns in the vicinity.

Time was also spent on training program consisting primarily of two activities. First, training in the operation and maintenance of self propelled Tank Destroyers (conducted with 4 M18s Tank destroyer vehicles issued to the battalion by the 7th Army). Second, all companies fired their small arms on a range set up by the battalion.

12 Apr 45. Three gun companies still performing first echelon maintenance and taking care of the police of the towns in which they are located.

1st and 2nd reconnaissance platoons attached by VCG to the 36th Inf Div. These two platoons, with CP at LANDSTUHL, are carrying on reconnaissance and patrolling missions for the 36th Div in the vicinity of LANDSTUHL.

13 Apr 45. VCG, 7th Army received attaching us to 18th AB Corps. All companies preparing to move, Advance party left WESELBERG for OLPE at 1900 hrs and consisted of (in order of march): Bn Comdr. S-1, A, B, and C company Comdrs, and S-3. At SEGAN verbal assignment was received attaching us to the 86th Inf Div.

14 Apr 45. Balance of the battalion moved to OLPE, under the direction of Bn Executive Officer, Major RONINGER. IP, KAISERSLAUTERN, IP time, 0600 hrs, order of march, Headquarters Co, Company C and Company A. On the March one gun in Company A struck a tree and was damaged to such an extent that it had to be sent to Ordnance for extensive repairs. The Battalion bivouaced at OLPE for one night. Verbal orders were given for move and strip maps were issued.

15 Apr 45. Battalion CP set up in LUDENSCHIED. Companies reported to the Inf Regts of the 86th Div to which they had been assigned. A Co set up a perimeter defense for LUDENSCHIED at 1600 hrs. Co B was at NAHMUR at 1600 Hrs and Co C was at HAGEN at 1600 Hrs.

16 Apr 45. A Co attached to the 341st Inf Regt. All guns in position around the city for defense against counterattack. All of the companies half tracks are being used to haul PWs to the rear. Germans surrendering as fast as the company can pick them up.

Periodic Unit Report (continued)

Fire was received from artillery.

Company B attached to the 342nd Inf Rgt. Guns are in position for road blocks. All of the companies half tracks are being used to haul PWs. One half track turned over and one man was seriously injured, Pvt PORTER.

Balance of the Battalion defending LUDENSCHIED. Co A and two Recon platoons have outposts on the outskirts of the city and are carrying on 24 hour motorized patrols in and around the city, in conjunction with a Company of Engineers.

17 Apr 45. Company A and both reconnaissance platoons continued outposts and patrols for the defense of LUDENSCHIED. Companies B and C moved into the city (LUDENSCHIED). Advance party left LUDENSCHIED for WINDSHEIM.

18 Apr 45. Battalion left LUDENSCHIED for WINDSHEIM. IP, BRUGGE, IP time, 1646, order of march, two reconnaissance platoons and Bn CP, Company A, Company B, Headquarters Co, and Company C.

19 Apr 45. Battalion CP set up in WINDSHEIM. Battalion received verbal orders detaching it from the 86th Inf Div and attaching it to the 8th TD Group. Col STEVENS and Major ERKKILA reported to Group and received orders for rear area security. Companies A and C in KUHLSHEIM, both performing first echelon maintenance and securing the town. Company B conducting outposts and patrols for the security of WIBELSHEIM, location of the company CP.

20 Apr 45. 1st and 2nd reconnaissance platoons conducting outposts and patrols in and around WINDSHEIM. Other companies continuing to perform first echelon maintenance and to secure the towns in which they are located.

21 Apr 45. Company B has moved into WINDSHEIM and is now screening the city. Companies A and C are still at KUHLSHEIM and are now screening that town.

22 Apr 45. Both reconnaissance platoons are being held as a mobile reserve at the battalion CP. Company B is still engaged in screening of the city of WINDSHEIM.

Companies A and C have begun to take over the security of various captured enemy installations in the III Corps immediate rear area from elements of the 86th and 99th Inf Div.

23 Apr 45. Battalion CP still located at WINDSHEIM. Headquarters Co furnishing transportation, drivers and guard for the movement of DPs for the Military Government. Company also handled destruction of 256 civilian weapons for AMG. Both reconnaissance platoons are being held as a mobile reserve at Bn CP. Col STEVENS contacted the MG regarding work necessary in the city.

Company A at KUHLSHEIM with platoons guarding captured German equipment and installations.

Periodic Unit Report (continued)

Company B at WINDSHEIM with platoons securing captured enemy equipment and installations and located as follows, 1st platoon at WINDSHEIM, 2nd platoon at OCHSENFURT and the 3rd platoon at MARKTBREIT.

Company C at WINDHEIM with platoons securing captured German equipment and installations and located as follows, 1st platoon at ANSBACH, 2nd platoon at HOCHSTADT, and the 3rd platoon at a large ammunition dump near ANSBACH.

24 Apr 45. Headquarters Company still moving DPs. Both reconnaissance platoons investigating and securing newly reported installations. Bn Comdr, Col STEVENS, is making a survey to determine the value of the installations and equipment being guarded by the battalion. Items of no value to the civilian population or to our army are to be destroyed, especially those which might be of military value to the enemy.

All companies still located in the same positions and still guarding captured enemy equipment and installations. Col STEVENS instructed S-3, Major ERKKILA, in regard to the destruction of material.

25 Apr 45. Various guarded German equipment (ie airplanes, airplane engines, ammunition, arms, etc.) were destroyed under the direction of the S-3, Major ERKKILA, to relieve the guards for more important posts, such as, medical supplies, food and clothing.

All companies still engaged in the guarding of captured enemy installations and in the same locations. Company A is now guarding Art Treasures stored in a large castle, and company C has an enemy ammunition dump of approximately 50 acres which contains thousands of rounds of artillery shells, bombs and other explosives. This ammunition dump was wired for demolition by the German before they left it.

26 Apr 45. Battalion CP moved from WINDSHEIM to WIESENBERG. All guarded installations in the rear of the new Coprs rear boundry were either relieved or destroyed. Many of them were turned over to local French guards. Bn Comdr and S-3 preceed unit to WEISENBERG.

Company A moved it's CP from KULSHEIM to GUNZENHAUSEN. All three platoons are still guarding captured installations and are now located as follows, 1st platoon at NUEND, 2nd platoon at WEISENBERG and 3rd platoon at GUNZENHAUSEN.

Company B has moved to WEISENBERG AND is waiting for an assignment.

Company C moved it's CP from WINDSHEIM to ANSBACH. All three platoons are still guarding captured German installations and are now located as follows, 1st platoon at NEUSTADT, 2nd platoon at ANSBACH, and 3rd platoon at the same large ammunition dump.

27 Apr 45. 1st platoon company A moved from NUEND to GUNZENHAUSEN, all platoons of the company still performing security missions.

Company B is still being held in reserve at the battalion CP.

Company C turned over a German airport which it had been guarding to the AAF who are now using the airport.

Col STEVENS and Major ERKKILA, S-3, inspect all company positions.

28 Apr 45. Many of the installations now being guarded by the Bn are hospitals containing wounded German soldiers. As quickly as they recover sufficiently, they are removed to PW cages. Bn Rcn, Lt

Periodic Unit Report (continued)

Bn Rcn officer, Lt McAllister, with 5 men captured 18 German prisoner while on reconnaissance in the vicinity of FREDERICHSHOFEN.

1st platoon, 2nd platoon and 3rd platoon of company B are in INGOLSTADT, where the company CP is now located, and are assisting the AMG in maintaining order in that city. The company is taking over the security of the city from the 86th Div. Company has set up patrols in and around the city and has had some difficulty with German snipers.

Company A and 1st platoon CPs moved to WEISENBURG. 3rd platoon remained at GUNZENHAUSEN. Company still securing captured installations.

Company C had no action or change in situation during the period.

29 Apr 45. 1st Rcn platoon securing captured enemy installations, 2nd Rcn platoon held in reserve at Bn CP. All companies in the same positions. None of them experienced any action or change of situation for the period.

30 Apr 45. Rcn platoons relieved from assignment, both platoons now at Bn CP, Corps rear boundry moves forward, Army takes over responsibility for points we are released from.

Company A moved all three platoons to INGOLSTADT to assist Co B in the screening and security of the city and to take over the security of several captured enemy installations in the vicinity of the city.

Company B is screening and securing the city of INGOLSTADT. They have set up a riot squad to cope with looting and rioting by refugees and DPs. This riot squad is working in conjunction with the AMG in the city. Also the company is guarding several captured enemy installations in the vicinity of the city. Among these is a fairly large ammunition dump.

Company C moved it's CP to GUNZENHAUSEN. All three platoons are still engaged in the securing of captured German equipment and installations. This company is also engaging in the moving of DPs for the AMG.

JACK ERKKILA
Major, Inf (TD)
S-3