

**SECRET**

654th Tank Battalion  
Commanding Officer  
APO 333, US Army

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials: *RSC*

Date: *22 May 1945*  
1 May 1945

X

Subject: Report Against the Enemy, Report After Action.  
Reference: The Report of General, Washington, D. C.

In compliance with the provisions of Par 10, cs, A. 345-105, sub-paragraph 1, Report After Action Against the Enemy, for the 654th Tank Battalion, covering the period 1-30 April 1945:

April 1, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies moved from Kreul, Germany, to Buer, Germany. Distance 2 miles. Command Post closed at Kreul, at 1300 hours and moved to Buer at 1400 hours. Battalion attached to 35th Infantry Division, and "A" Company attached to 35th Division Artillery. "A", "B" and "C" Companies in direct support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry Regiments respectively. 3rd Platoon of "B" Company knocked out 3 Machine Gun nests and 2 pill boxes.

April 2, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Buer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. One enlisted man was killed and one officer and two enlisted men were wounded in "B" Company by enemy artillery. The casualties were evacuated by the medical Detachment, 137th Infantry.

April 3, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Buer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry.

April 4, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Buer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. 1st Lt. Jim P. Harper of Headquarters Company promoted to grade of Captain. Captain Baker, C.O. of "A" Company departed on 7 days leave to return to the United States. 1st Lt. Donald T. Dunne, assumed command of the Company during the absence of Captain Baker. "B" Company fired 2 rounds of 4.2 inch mortar at a search light tower that was being used as an OP by the enemy, and one search light was destroyed. Destruction of both targets was confirmed by the enemy.

April 5, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Buer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. One enlisted man of "B" Company was killed and one officer and two enlisted men were wounded in "B" Company by enemy artillery. The casualties were treated by 110th Medical Battalion.

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[REDACTED]

April 5, 1945 (Contd)

Company fired 10 rounds of AP and 4 rounds of HE at gun flashes, but results of firing was undetermined. 1st Lt. Bushbaum, Sgt Mizinkirck, Cpl Ferguson and T/5 D. J. of "A" Company were presented the Bronze Star Medal at Gladbeck, Germany by Major Denton.

April 6, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Euer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "A" Company fired 13 rounds of HE and 1 round of AP destroying one enemy observation post and damaging one other. Company also fired 20 rounds of HE at dug-in positions but no casualties could not be determined. "B" Company fired 9 rounds of HE at a house in which German soldiers were seen entering. Number of casualties undetermined. 1st and 2nd platoon of "C" Company remained in position of readiness and 3rd platoon performed maintenance work.

April 7, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Euer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "A" Company fired 27 rounds of HE at buildings occupied by enemy troops. Buildings were only damaged but number of casualties inflicted could not be determined. "B" Company fired 148 rounds of HE, 1 round of AP, and 990 rounds of .50 caliber, and 2000 rounds of .30 caliber at various targets with unknown results.

April 8, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Euer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "A" Company fired 10 rounds of HE and 1 round of AP at enemy pill boxes and dug-in positions, and 6 rounds of HE at house used as enemy observation post. Pill boxes and house destroyed and occupants badly damaged. Recon Company assigned of patrolling roads in 24th Infantry Division Sector.

April 9, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Euer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "A" Company fired 43 rounds in support of 3rd Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment. Visibility was very poor, and results of firing could not be determined. "B" Company fired 3 rounds of HE, 330 rounds of .50 caliber and 750 rounds of .30 caliber at snipers, who were concealed in a dike across a canal. The snipers stopped firing, but number of casualties could not be determined. Recon Company continued mission of patrolling roads and bridges in assigned Division Sector.

April 10, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Euer, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "A" Company fired 10 rounds of HE and 10 rounds of AP at buildings used by the enemy as strong points. Buildings were all destroyed. Recon Company assigned new responsibility to patrol and guard. Battalion 1/2 Recovery vehicle turned in for replacement.

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[REDACTED]

April 11, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies moved from Buer, Germany, to Herne, Germany. Distance 12 miles. Command Post closed at Buer, at 1430 hours and opened at Herne at 1545 hours. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "B" Company knocked out a tank believed to be a Mark V or VI. The ammunition rack on the tank was hit and exploded and the tank burned. Company then fired on a concentration of foot troops and vehicles. One oil tank and one loaded van was destroyed, and 14 German soldiers were killed. 48 rounds were fired in the entire operation.

April 12, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Herne, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "A" Company fired 17 rounds of HE at houses in which German soldiers were stationed. The buildings were set afire and the troops forced to abandon the buildings. "B" Company knocked out a Mark IV tank and a truck loaded with German soldiers. 34 rounds were fired in the operations. "C" Company captured 4 prisoners.

April 13-14, 1945

"A", "B" and "C" Companies reverted to battalion control and Battalion moved from Herne, Germany to Grasleben, Germany. Distance 234 miles. Command Post closed at Herne at 1330 hours 13 April and opened at Grasleben, at 0830 hours 14 April 1945. One vehicle was lost. The air compressor in Ren Company hit a bridge and caught fire and burned. Track vehicles still enroute.

April 15, 1945

Battalion moved from Grasleben, Germany to Burgstall, Germany. Distance 41 miles. Command Post closed at Grasleben at 1045 hours and opened at Burgstall at 1330 hours. Track vehicles still enroute and started arriving at dusk. All Companies remained under Battalion control. Headquarters captured 5 prisoners, Ren Company captured 44, and "A" Company captured 3, total of 52 for the day.

April 16, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Burgstall, Germany. "A", "B" and "C" Companies in assembly area in Crochern, Germany in battalion reserve. One platoon of "D" Company attached to 137th Infantry. All gun companies performing maintenance work on Tank Destroyers, which were in bad condition after the march from Herne to present position. Ren Company continued on mission of patrolling. Ren captured 90 prisoners and Headquarters captured 9.

April 17, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Burgstall. "A" and "B" Companies in direct support of 134th and 137th Infantry respectively. "C" Company continued in assembly area in Crochern, Germany. One platoon from each company prepared to support 161st, 219th and 127th F. A. Battalions respectively. "B" Company fired 7 rounds of HE and 500 rounds of .30 caliber at enemy troops digging in along dike. Number of casualties inflicted was undetermined. "C" Company captured 2 prisoners and Ren captured 45.

April 18, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Turgstall, Germany. "A" and "B" Companies continued in support of 134th and 137th Infantry. "C" Company remained in Brochern in Division Reserve. 1st Platoon of "B" Company supporting 127th FA Battalion, fired 22 rounds at enemy positions. Observers reported the fire effective. A total of 33 more rounds were fired at various targets. One CP and one fuel dump were destroyed. 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired 21 rounds at enemy vehicles destroying 3 of them. One 4 ton vehicle of 1st Company hit a mine destroying vehicle and wounding the enlisted men. 2 prisoners captured by 1st Company. Pfc Alvie Penix of "C" Company presented the Bronze Star Medal at Brochern, Germany by Captain Cooper.

April 19, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies moved from Turgstall, Germany to Tangerhutte, Germany. Distance 10 miles. Command Post closed at Burgstall, Germany at 1310 hours and opened at Tangerhutte, at 1330 hours. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "C" Company in assembly area in Brochern, with 2nd platoon reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. "A" and "B" Companies were relieved from support of 134th and 137th Infantry at 1600 hours and Battalion less "C" Company and one platoon of Rcn Company were attached to XIII Corps for operations only, and moved from Tangerhutte, Germany to Mieste, Germany. Distance 32 miles. Command Post closed at Tangerhutte, at 1600 hours and opened at Mieste at 1900 hours. "A" and "B" Companies attached to "A" and "C" Troop, 44th Cavalry Squadron. "C" Company remained in Division Reserve. 1st and 3rd platoons of Rcn Company attached to "A" and "B" Companies respectively. 2nd platoon attached to 784th Tank Battalion. Rcn Company captured 3 prisoners.

April 20, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies moved from Turgstall, Germany to Tangerhutte, Germany. Distance 10 miles. Command Post closed at Burgstall, Germany at 1310 hours and opened at Tangerhutte, at 1330 hours. "A", "B" and "C" Companies continued in support of 134th, 137th and 320th Infantry. "C" Company in assembly area in Brochern, with 2nd platoon reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. "A" and "B" Companies were relieved from support of 134th and 137th Infantry at 1600 hours and Battalion less "C" Company and one platoon of Rcn Company were attached to XIII Corps for operations only, and moved from Tangerhutte, Germany to Mieste, Germany. Distance 32 miles. Command Post closed at Tangerhutte, at 1600 hours and opened at Mieste at 1900 hours. "A" and "B" Companies attached to "A" and "C" Troop, 44th Cavalry Squadron. "C" Company remained in Division Reserve. 1st and 3rd platoons of Rcn Company attached to "A" and "B" Companies respectively. 2nd platoon attached to 784th Tank Battalion. Rcn Company captured 3 prisoners.

April 21, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Mieste, Germany. "A" and "B" Companies continued in support of "A" and "C" Troop, 44th Cavalry Squadron, assisting in eliminating elements of Task Force von Clauswitz, which was threatening XIII Corps. "C" Company remained in Division Reserve.

April 22, 1945

"A" and "B" Companies continued in support of "A" and "C" Troop, 44th Cavalry Squadron respectively until 1500 hours. At that time both companies reverted to battalion control. Battalion relieved from attachment to XIII Corps. Battalion less "C" Company and 1 Rcn platoon moved from Mieste, Germany, to Tangerhutte, Germany, distance 32 miles. Command Post closed at Mieste, Germany at 1500 hours and opened at Tangerhutte at 1700 hours. "A" and "B" Companies placed in direct support of 134th and 137th Infantry respectively. "A" Company captured 16 prisoners and "B" Company captured 9. "C" Company remained in Division reserve with 2nd platoon in support of 127th FA Battalion. Company fired 221 rounds of harassing fire through the night. Rcn Company under Battalion control

April 22, 1945 (Contd)

Battalion was attached to 734th Tank Battalion.

April 23, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" and one Recon platoon remained in Tangerhütte. "A" Company continued in support of 134th and 137th Infantry, "B" Company supporting the 161st and 219th FA Battalions. "C" Company remained in Division reserve with one platoon supporting the 127th FA Battalion. Recon platoon continued attached to 734th Tank Battalion.

April 24, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B" and "C" Companies remained in Tangerhütte. "A" Company fired 20 rounds of 81 and 100 rounds of .50 caliber across the Elbe River in support of 134th Infantry. "B" Company in support of 137th Infantry. 2nd Platoon of "B" Company fired 40 rounds of 81 supporting 219th FA Battalion. "C" Company less 1st platoon remained in Lohlpfuhl in Division reserve. 1st platoon of "C" Company supported 127th FA Battalion. Recon Company attached to 734th Tank Battalion at 1800 hours with mission of patrolling sector in rear area. 16 prisoners were captured.

April 25, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B", "C" and Recon Companies remained in Tangerhütte. "A" and "B" Companies continued in support of 134th and 137th Infantry. "C" Company continued in reserve with 1st platoon reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. "B" Company fired 31 rounds 81 at enemy personnel and vehicles with excellent results. Recon Company continued attached to 734th Tank Battalion with mission of patrolling rear areas until 1800 hours. At that time Recon reverted to Battalion control. Sgt Joseph Riscan of "C" Company presented the Bronze Star Medal at Lohlpfuhl, Germany by Major Benton.

April 26, 1945

Battalion less "A", "B", "C", and Recon Companies remained in Tangerhütte, Germany. "A" Company in support of 134th Infantry with 2nd Platoon reinforcing fire of 161st FA Battalion. "B" Company relieved of support of 137th Infantry at 0800 hours and assigned mission of patrolling and furnishing security of Tangerhütte. "C" Company remained in Lohlpfuhl, with 1st platoon reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. Recon Company continued to patrol sector in rear area. Company captured 7 prisoners. Battalion Headquarters personnel captured 2 prisoners. Cpl Eugene Dawson of "C" Company presented the Bronze Star Medal at Lohlpfuhl, Germany by Captain Cooper.

April 27, 1945

Battalion less "A", "C" and Recon Companies remained in Tangerhütte. "B" Company continued in support of 134th Infantry with 2nd platoon reinforcing fire of 161st FA Battalion. "C" Company continued mission of patrolling of Tangerhütte. 1st platoon of "C" Company reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. Recon Company continued mission of patrolling sector in rear area.

April 28, 1945

Battalion less "A", "C" and Rcn Company remained in Tangerhutte. "A" Company continued furnishing reinforcing fire for 161st FA Battalion. "B" Company continued mission of furnishing security for Tangerhutte. 1st platoon of "C" Company reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. Rcn Company continued to patrol assigned sector in rear area. Company captured 11 prisoners in patrol area and 4 in Tangerhutte.

April 29, 1945

Battalion less "A", "C" and Rcn Companies remained in Tangerhutte. "A" Company continued furnishing reinforcing fire for 161st FA Battalion. "B" Company relieved of duties of patrolling Tangerhutte. Continued of outposting of 35th Division Artillery Command Post area. "C" Company reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. Rcn Company relieved of duties of patrolling sector in rear area, and moved to assembly area in Crochern, Germany.

April 30, 1945

Battalion less "A", "C" and Rcn Companies remained in Tangerhutte, Germany. Battalion attached to 35th Infantry Division, and further attached to 35th Division Artillery. 1st and 3rd platoons of "A" Company reinforcing fire of 161st FA Battalion. "B" Company continued furnishing security for 35th Division Artillery. 1st platoon of "C" Company reinforcing fire of 127th FA Battalion. Company captured 3 prisoners. One 1/2 ton Rcn Company vehicle hitaa road mine, destroying vehicle, and wounding one enlisted.

CASUALTIES:

Killed in Action:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	1
Missing in Action:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	0
Wounded in Action:	Officers	1;	Enlisted Men	3
Injured in Action:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	3
Non-Battle Deaths:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	0

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star Medal:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	5
Bronze Star Medal Oak-Leaf Cluster:	Officers	1;	Enlisted Men	0
Purple Heart:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	1
Purple Heart Oak-Leaf Cluster:	Officers	1;	Enlisted Men	0
Certificate of Merit:	Officers	0;	Enlisted Men	0

For the Commanding Officer: