

HEADQUARTERS

691st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

5 May 1945

SUBJECT: Unit Historical Report for Period  
1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

TO : Commanding General, 76th Infantry Division  
(Attention: After Action Reports Section)

During the first week of April the Battalion was attached to the 65th Infantry Division, supporting their advance into Germany against the enemy. The Battalion was partially converted, "A" Company with M-36s and "B" and "C" companies with 3 inch towed guns.

On 6 April 1945 the Battalion received orders releasing it from the 65th Infantry Division and attaching it to the 76th Infantry Division effective immediately. Assembling the entire unit at Sontray, Germany, the Battalion moved to Hesslichtanan on 7 April 1945 and went into the line in support of the 76th Infantry Division at once.

Once again the steady, never ending drive gained impetus and the Battalion went into battle laden with Infantrymen, making an unstopable combination. During this period the Battalion was converting the two towed companies to self-propelled units by platoons and on 13 April the thirty-sixth M-36 rolled against the enemy. The 691st Tank Destroyer Battalion was now completely self-propelled.

On 18 April 1945 the Battalion was released from assignment to XX Corps and assigned to control of VIII Corps. This order was followed by Troop Assignment No. 104, Hq., 12th Army Group dated 22 April 1945, which released the Battalion from the Third U. S. Army and assigned it to the First U. S. Army.

The 70th Infantry Division received a restraining line from Higher Headquarters on 18 April 1945 which limited the advances which could have been made by the troops. This line however did not occasion a cessation of hostilities. There was still much activity along the front with numerous brushes with the enemy. The Battalion distinguished itself during this period, from 18 April to 30 April, by its action in repelling counter-attacks, its energetic destruction of enemy installations and materiel, its aggressiveness in cleaning out pockets of enemy resistance and in the numerous containing missions to which it had been assigned.

The following is a compilation of the individual results of action by the Battalion during the month of April:

Destroyed:

- 2 Tanks (1 Mk V - 1 Mk VI)
- 3 Assault Guns
- 7 20mm AA Guns (ground)
- 7 Artillery Pieces (88mm AT)
- 5 Enemy Vehicles
- 16 Machine Gun Nests
- 1 Fuel Dump

Captured:

- 16 Artillery Pieces
- 4 Enemy Vehicles
- 1001 Enemy Troops

Killed:

64 Enemy Troops

Liberated:

150 American Prisoners of War

200 Allied Prisoners of War

Fired:

1273 Rounds Direct Fire.

Captain Merle Williams, Battalion S-2, discovered and turned in to the Division G-2 a series of secret documents concerning V-2 or a similar weapon. It was believed that these documents were the first of their kind that had been uncovered and they were transmitted to Corps immediately.

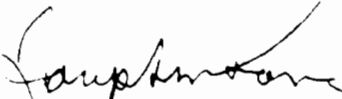
Casualties during the month were comparatively light. WOJG Floyd R. Willis was killed and Tec 4 Earl R. Anderson was wounded while enroute to an Ordnance unit, circumstances unknown. Pvt. Hobert A. Mott, Company "B" was killed by sniper fire in Limbach, Germany and the following men were injured accidentally: S/Sgt. Hoyer W. Tolleson, Pfc Ersel R. Nelson, Pvt. John Sokolich.

During the month the Battalion sent one enlisted man to the states for 45 days temporary duty, three enlisted men to the French Riviera on 7 day furloughs and one enlisted man to the United Kingdom for a 7 day furlough.

Morale: Excellent.

Efficiency: Superior.

For the Commanding Officer:

  
JOSEPH W. LONG  
Major, Cavalry  
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