

HEADQUARTERS  
804th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

SECRET  
:By Authority of:  
:G.O. 804 TD Bn :  
:Initials \_\_\_\_\_ :  
:Date 28 May 45 :

AFO 464, US ARMY,  
28 May 1945

SUBJECT Battalion History for April, 1945.

TO Commanding General,  
Fifth Army  
A.P.C. 464, U. S. Army.

At the beginning of this month the elements of the battalion were disposed as follows:

Forward CP at Sabioni, Italy.

En Aid Station, Hq Co and Rear CP at LaPosta, Italy.

Co A at Casoni, Italy.

Co B near La Guarda, Italy.

Co C in Monzuno, Italy.

Rear Co in the vicinity of Laquerzia, Italy.

The battalion, less Reconnaissance Company, was attached to the 34th Infantry Division.

Reconnaissance Company was attached to 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupying infantry defensive positions, and performing patrol duties.

On 1 April 1945, the Gun Companies fired 20 missions with the 3 inch guns. Purple Hearts were awarded to Pvt Charles A Laramie, for wounds received 1 July 1944 and Pvt Wayne F. Booker for wounds received 17 March 1945 in General Order No. 6, Hq 804 TD Bn, at LaPosta, Italy.

Unlisted men departed 2 April enroute to the U S on Rotation and Temporary Duty. The Gun Companies fired 24 missions, expending 762 rounds of 3 inch ammunition and had 5 direct hits on enemy emplacements, 11 hits on enemy occupied houses and dispersed enemy personnel. The following day Company C was attached to the 135th Infantry Regiment when the 133rd Infantry was relieved. 484 rounds of 3 inch ammunition was fired in 16 harassing mission. 2nd Lt. William F. Johnson was transferred from Company B to Reconnaissance Company.

On 4 April 1945, Companies A and B were relieved from attachment to 168th Infantry and attached to the 362nd Infantry who relieved the 168th. Firing 82 rounds in 30 missions, Company A had 2 hits on a dugout and 1 hit on an enemy occupied house, and Company C had 3 direct hits on enemy dugouts.

Reconnaissance Company departed from Laquercia at 2230 and moved to an assembly area near Grizzana arriving about 0015 on the 5th. They left Grizzana and went into the line near Fondazza about 4 miles away about 2215, taking up Infantry Defensive Positions. The 88th Division moved in and the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 34th Infantry Division and attached to the 88th. The gun companies fired 23 harassing missions with 744 rounds. A Company registering 3 direct hits on enemy dugouts.

On 6 April 1945, the Gun Companies fired 55 missions with 795 rounds. Company A registering 5 direct hits on an enemy house; Company B hitting enemy houses 15 times and Company C, firing direct, put 10 rounds into a cave causing it to cave in upon the occupants.

On 7 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company began moving vehicles from their Motor Pool at Prato to a new area near Calove, preparatory to returning to Battalion control. Gun Companies fired 1350 rounds both direct and from artillery positions. Ammunition expenditure was increased in order to demolish enemy installations in preparation for the coming offensive. Companies all participated in the big TOT.

Reconnaissance Company completed moving all vehicles and supply installation to Calove on 8 April 1945. Gun Companies fired 2225 rounds, assisting in TOT and harassing enemy installations.

On 9 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company was relieved from front line positions by the South Africans and returned to Battalion control. They departed from Fondazza 2300 by infiltration and closed into Grizzani at 0345. 10 March where Headquarters Company trucks picked them up and transported them to Calove closing into new area at 0550. Line Companies fired 3569 rounds and assisted in TOT. Company A direct fire resulted in 12 hits on a dugout and 9 hits on an enemy house. Company B fired with Air OP, registering 24 hits on 3 houses and 14 hits on 2 mortar positions. Company C shot up 3 dugouts by direct fire.

On 10 April 1945, Company A was attached to 363rd Infantry, Company B to 361st and Company C to 349th Infantry. Firing 3192 rounds in 68 missions and the TOT, Company A had 31 direct hits on enemy occupied houses and 21 hits on dugouts, Company B had 9 hits on an enemy house and Company C started a fire in one house and had direct hits on 3 others. Captain George C Rowe, the Battalion Surgeon, departed for the US on rotation.

On 11 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company established the Company CP about 300 yards west of Casoli and moved some elements of the Company forward from Calove. They prepared and occupied firing positions for mortars and Heavy Machine Guns. Gun Companies fired 3233 rounds in 53 missions and TOT. Company A registering 15 direct hits on houses and 6 on dugouts while Company B registered 18 hits on dugouts. 32 missions and TOT's were fired with 1743 rounds on the 12th. The 3rd Platoon of Company C moved into direct fire positions near LaGuarda. Reconnaissance Company prepared positions to put M-8 Armored Cars into 37 mm firing positions, sent out liaison parties, and occupied additional mortar and .50 caliber machine gun positions.

2109 rounds were fired on the 13th of April, 1945. Company A fired 12 missions from Artillery positions, registering 19 hits on enemy occupied houses and 40 hits on an enemy OP and dugouts around the OP. Direct guns fired 246 rounds into enemy positions and bunkers. Company B Artillery guns fired 15 missions and assisted in TOT's while direct guns fired on and destroyed a tower in S. ANSANO which was being used as an OP by the Germans.

On 14 April 1945, Company A fired 4 missions from Artillery Guns and then moved them into direct fire positions North of Livergano. Company B fired 4 missions for Air OP and 9 illuminating rounds for the Infantry. At night all Artillery guns were moved into direct fire positions. Infantry reported that there were a number of dead Germans found in the tower destroyed on the 13th. Reconnaissance Company registered the 37 mm guns and furnished liaison parties to the 88th and 91st Infantry Divisions.

On 15 April 1945, the attack for Bologna and the Po Valley was launched. Company A fired 6 direct harassing missions. Company B fired 4 missions for Air OP, at enemy positions, harassed these same targets during the night with 560 rounds and fired 1040 rounds in support of 361st Infantry attack. Company C fired 1368 rounds in support of Infantry attack beginning at 2300 hours; 1st and 2nd platoon in support of 349th Infantry and 3rd platoon in support of 350th Infantry.

On 16 April 1945, Company A fired 876 rounds direct at enemy occupied positions, Machine Gun nests and emplacements in support of 363rd Infantry attack. Company B fired harassing missions from Artillery guns at targets on North slopes of M. Adone and M. Castellazzo, expending 861 rounds. Direct guns fired 1809 rounds on call for the Infantry at enemy pillboxes, Machine Guns and emplacements to support the attack. Lt. General CHEFFREY HAYES fired the 200,000th round for the battalion in the Italian Campaign from Company B Artillery gun at La Guardia. Lt. General LEE acted as loader. The Generals reversed positions and Lt. General LEE fired the 200,001 round. Company C fired 1218 rounds of HE from all direct guns on call of the Infantry to support the attack on pillboxes, Machine Guns and emplacements. Reconnaissance Company fired 500 rounds from the 81 mm mortars and 1167 rounds from the 37 mm guns in support of the attack. Company A lost one M-10 to an enemy mine near Barchetta, 2nd Lt. Robert L. Brown, Jr., Luther Freels, and Pfc James D. Epton were wounded by enemy shell fire.

On 17 April 1945, Company A fired 362 rounds of HE in support of 363rd Infantry attack, with all guns in direct fire positions. The 2nd platoon moved into position in the vicinity of Zula. Company B fired 1287 rounds of HE direct fire at pillboxes and emplacements. After firing several rounds into one cave, it blew up, apparently being an ammunition dump. Artillery guns were moved forward to direct positions in vicinity of Guarduzz a. Company C fired 1843 rounds supporting the Infantry and destroyed 2 Machine Gun emplacements on Hill 427. Reconnaissance Company also continued to support the attack with 81 mm mortars and 37 mm guns.

On 18 April 1945, in continuation of the attack, Reconnaissance Company fired 100 rounds at enemy emplacements on M. Arnigo. Company B, supporting 361st Infantry, fired 681 rounds of HE at emplacements on M. Adone. 1st Lt. Joseph M. Clark assumed command of Company C when 1st Lt. Williamson was hospitalized for an old wound. The 1st platoon, supporting 350th Infantry, fired 283 rounds of HE on dugouts and Machine Gun nests, knocking out 2 Machine Guns. Remainder of company moved to an assembly area near Vergato. Reconnaissance Company moved up to Sabbioni.

By the 19th of April, M. Adone had fallen and the drive was beginning to move forward. Battalion Forward CP and Reconnaissance Company moved up to the vicinity of Livergnano, Company A moved to vicinity of Casalina in support of the 362nd Infantry and Companies B and C moved to C. Piana.

Bologna was liberated on 20 April 1945. Elements of Company B and Reconnaissance Company flanked the city from the SW with the 361st Infantry prior to the entry of the 34th Infantry Division into the city. In re-grouping and moving forward, elements of the battalion were at the following points; Company A at Casalina, Company P at Calogare, Company C at Lamaia in support of 351st Infantry. Forward CP moved to Fiorina and Headquarters Company to Casalina. Company B destroyed one SP Gun. The drive North of Bologna was continued behind a screening attack of the 6th South African Armor. Company A advanced to Bandeira with the 362nd Infantry, Company B to Ronzano with the 361st Infantry. Company C reached the area North of Opi; Forward CP also moved up to Sala Bolognese, and the Rear CP to Ross'e Certosa.

On 21 April 1945, Company A reached Bertalin and Company I reached Fodulio in support of the 363rd Infantry. Company C moved to Anzola capturing 33 Pz and was relieved of attachment to 36th Infantry Division by the 80th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Major Wallace L. Clement and his driver Pvt Roy M. Johnson were missing on the 22nd. Pvt Johnson's body was found near Bevilaguo on the 23rd, where he had been killed when they ran into a German Ambush. Company A moved through Casetti, Company B to Santa Maria della Neve, and Company C beyond S. Giovanni. Company C was credited with destroying one M. IV tank, one Anti-Tank gun, 4 Machine Guns and taking 11 Pz. Company A assisted in reducing a pocket of Germans who had been by-passed by the screening force south of Finale. They killed 40 Germans, took 44 prisoners and knocked out 4 horse drawn carts, one ammunition wagon, one supply wagon, one scout car, two motorcycles, 3 half tracks, one jeep, and two 75 mm field guns. Reconnaissance Company moved up to Gracebiano and formed a reconnaissance force to act on call of the 363rd Infantry.

On 24 April 1945, all companies moved forward 20 to 30 miles, Company A occupying Staz Di Serivide, Company B Massa Finales and then Carbanara Di Po, destroying one enemy tank and one SP gun enroute, Company C, in reserve, moved to LaCampa, Reconnaissance Company moved through Bevilaguo to Magnacavallo, a distance of 65 miles. During the fight which followed Company A accounted for two ammunition wagons and one truck, took

73 PWs, and killed or wounded an undetermined number before the pocket was eliminated and the advance resumed.

On the 25th all companies moved into assembly positions near the Po River in preparation for the crossing which took place on the 26th. Company A crossed at 0500, Company B and Forward CP at 1100, Company C at 1700, and Headquarters Company, Rear CP and Reconnaissance Company by 1830. The crossing was made over a pontoon Treadway Bridge. Company A advanced 25 miles supporting the 361st Infantry to the Adige River near LaPesa. Company B advanced 19 miles with 363rd to the Adige River near Legnago, destroying 1 Machine Gun and 2 Bazooka teams and captured 28 PWs. Company C and Forward CP stopped near Legnago; Headquarters Company moved into Villa Dionisi, and Reconnaissance Company was located in the vicinity of Cerea.

On the 27th Company A supported the 361st Infantry in crossing the Adige River, knocking out 2 enemy trucks and capturing 73 PWs. Company B supported the attack of the 362nd Infantry in securing the bridgehead at Legnago and moving into Minerbe. Company C M-10 was hit by an 88 mm Anti-Tank Gun in the vicinity of Cologne and burned, killing Sgt. Lindsey and Pfc Escobar and wounding Pfc Hellwege and Pvt Groninger. Reconnaissance Company was attached to the 88th Infantry Division to protect the left flank of the Division and moved to S. Lorenzo on the 28th, setting up road blocks. Company B advanced through Mossano and Cologne to the vicinity of Vicenza and knocked out 1 SP Gun, 5 trucks and 2 personnel carriers. Company A advanced through Cologne to the vicinity of Vicenza, destroying 1 Anti-Tank Gun. 2nd Lt. Brown was returned to duty with Company A after release from the hospital. The advance continued to move rapidly during the 29th, all elements of the battalion moving up through Vicenza and East to the Brenta River, German resistance being put up mostly by isolated pockets and rear guard elements. Company A destroyed 10 wagons and carts and captured 134 PWs. Company B took 400 PWs. Headquarters Company moved over 50 miles to Ospitaletto in order to keep up with the rapid advance. 1st Lt. James D. Freed, 2nd Lt. William D. McLinden, and 2nd Lt. Edward L. Segrist joined the battalion and were assigned to Company B, Reconnaissance Company, and Headquarters Company respectively. An advance of approximately 30 miles was made on the 30th into Treviso and vicinity. Company A destroyed 15 ammunition trucks, 1 Anti-Tank Gun, 2 Bazookas, 2 Armored Cars, 1 half-track, 2 motorcycles, 1 20 mm gun and captured 400 PWs. Company C shot up 6 vehicles, 8 carts, and killed 30 Germans. On the advance from the Brenta River to Treviso the situation was very fluid and by-passed enemy groups caused considerable trouble until they were cleaned out.

2nd Lts. Byron A. Moore and Clarence E. Troeger were given combat promotions to 1st Lt. on the 22nd of April.

**Casualties for the month were:**

**Filled in Action**

|                          |         |          |                 |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| Pvt. Roy M. Johnson      | Hq. Co. | 22 April | Near Bivillaqua |
| Pfc. Perfirio J. Escobar | Co. C   | 27 April | Near Cologna    |
| Sgt. Charles H. Lindsay  | Co. O   | 27 April | Near Cologna    |

**Missing in Action**

|                          |  |          |            |
|--------------------------|--|----------|------------|
| Major Wallace M. Clement |  | 22 April | Bivillaqua |
|--------------------------|--|----------|------------|

**Wounded in Action**

|                            |          |          |     |             |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|-----|-------------|
| 2d Lt. William F. Johnson  | Rcn. Co. | 15 April | LWA | Sabbioni    |
| 1st Lt. Bruce A. Berlin    | Rcn. Co. | 16 April | LWA | Sabbioni    |
| T/5 Luther Freats          | Rcn. Co. | 16 April | LWA | Sabbioni    |
| Pfc. James D. Hooton       | Rcn. Co. | 16 April | LWA | Sabbioni    |
| 2d Lt. Robert L. Brown Jr. | Co. A    | 16 April | LTA | Barchetta   |
| Pvt. James A. Fore         | Co. B    | 17 April | LWA | Brento      |
| T/5 Victor Grant           | Co. B    | 17 April | LWA | Brento      |
| Pvt. Randle E. Nicholson   | Rcn. Co. | 20 April | LWA | Casalino    |
| Pvt. Reed Van Wageningen   | Rcn. Co. | 21 April | SWA | Gracchianca |
| 1st Lt. Harris A. Roberts  | Co. A    | 23 April | SWA | Cosetti     |
| S/Sgt. Frank Rouse         | Co. A    | 23 April | SWA | Cosetti     |
| Sgt. Lorenzo Montoya       | Co. A    | 27 April | LWA | Lafesa      |
| Pfc. Myron Hellwege        | Co. O    | 27 April | LWA | Cologna     |
| Pvt. Eldon E. Groninger    | Co. A    | 27 April | LWA | Cologna     |
| S/Sgt. Ralph D. Clever     | Co. A    | 30 April | LWA | Troviso     |

**Awards**

1st Lt. Edgar S. Williamson was awarded 2 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action on 16 October 1944 and on 20 October 1944, per General Order No. 76, Headquarters 34th Infantry Division, 15 April 1945.

Bronze Star Medals were awarded to T/5 Adrian M. Radilla for meritorious service in combat from 16 October 1944 to 6 November 1944; S/Sgt. Carl K. Jones for Heroic Achievement in action 2 July 1944; T/Sgt. James E. Claylik for Meritorious Service in Combat from 15 April 1944 to 15 March 1945 per General Order No. 76, Headquarters 34th Infantry Division, 15 April 1945.

Sgt. Frank E. Mock was cited in General Orders of the 34th Infantry Division for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct on 2 July 1944.

Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart was awarded to Pvt. Reed Van Wageningen, per General Order No. 40, 24th General Hospital, 28 April 1945.

Purple Heart Medals were presented to Pvt. Charles A. Larawie and Pvt. Wayne F. Hooker, per General Order No. 6, Headquarters 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion at LaPosta, Italy, 1 April 1945.

Purple Heart Medals were awarded to:

2nd Lt. Robert L. Brown, Jr., per General Order No. 99, 56th Evacuation Hospital, 17 April 1945.

Tec. 4 Victor Grant, per General Order No. 88, 8th Evacuation Hospital, 19 April 1945.

Tec. 5 Luther Freels, per General Order No. 26, 12th General Hospital, 24 April 1945.

Expenditures of ammunition for the month:

|              |       |            |      |
|--------------|-------|------------|------|
| HE           | 26959 | 37 mm      | 143  |
| HE T/C       | 9314  | 81 mm Lt.  | 1100 |
| T/C Smoke    | 37    | 81 mm HVY. | 205  |
| Illuminating | 29    | AP         | 169  |
| Smoke        | 143   |            |      |

FRED C. ROWELL,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,  
Commanding.

SECRET