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HEADQUARTERS EIGHT HUNDRED FOURTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 464, U. S. ARMY

314-7

6 February 1945

SUBJECT: Battalion History for Month of January.

TO : Commanding General,
Fifth Army,
APO 464, U. S. Army.

The month of January 1945 brought snow and severe weather conditions to the area occupied by this Battalion. Generally, snow fell to a depth of 18 inches, making travel and operations exceedingly difficult. The Tank Destroyer gun companies were employed in indirect fire positions firing artillery missions.

On 4 January Captains Lowrey, S/Sgt De Santis, Privates Williams, Sissette and Andrews were returned to the United States; Tec 5's Swallow, Hamaker and Pvt Frazier left for temporary duty in the United States.

2nd Lieutenants Joseph M. Clark and Michael Krochmalny were promoted to 1st Lieutenants on 7 January. Tec 5 Pablo Portello was awarded the Purple Heart. 1st Lieutenant Barber, Company B, was assigned to Battalion Headquarters as S-2.

A Battalion Rest Center was opened at Montecatini, Italy, on 8 January operated by Reconnaissance Company personnel and closed on 23 January.

On 18 January about 1245 hours a very tragic occurrence happened when an enemy medium caliber shell landed very close to the tents occupied by supply personnel from companies B and C in the Battalion Rear CP area. Tec 5 McCullough, Pvt Carr of B Company and Pvt Schenker of C Company were killed. S/Sgt Burton, Cpl White, Pvt's Bush and Stoops of C Company and S/Sgt Carnes of B Company were wounded. S/Sgt Carnes and Cpl White died later as a result of wounds received. The men from B Company were loading supplies preparatory to delivery to their company. C Company men were resting in their tent after the noon meal. One man in the tent, rolled up in his sleeping bag, escaped injury although the sleeping bag was cut to pieces. After dark that evening, Headquarters Company and the Rear CP moved back to the vicinity of La Posta, Italy, out of artillery range.

On 23 January the Battalion, Company C, 755 TK Battalion attached, was relieved of attachment to the 91st Infantry Division and attached to the 88th Infantry Division. On 25 January Company C, 755 TK Battalion was relieved of attachment and reverted to control of 755 TK Battalion.

At 1530 hours, 25 January, Reconnaissance Company closed into a new area in vicinity of San Benedetto and was attached to 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 260800. 1st Lieutenant Hitchens was transferred from Company A to Reconnaissance Company and 1st Lieutenant Fred H. Keitel, rotation replacement for 1st Lieutenant Boyce, was assigned to Reconnaissance Company upon reporting.

During the month Lieutenant Colonel Howell spent 2 weeks with the 15th Air Force under the Air Force - Ground Force rotation policy.

Ammunition expenditures during the period were:

HE - 10,143 rounds
AP-ABC - 5 "
AP-EDF - 5 "
Smoke - 48 "
Illum - 64 "

FRED G. HOWELL,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.