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

1 April 1944

SUBJECT : Battalion History for the Month of March.

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

March 1944 is a very important month in the history of the 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion because it marks the period during which the first shell was fired at the enemy, the first bombardment received and the first Purple Heart award made.

On 3rd March this battalion left San Salvatore, Italy, and completed a move to the vicinity of Carinola, Italy. On the 6th, Reconnaissance Company, less the pioneer platoon, departed from Carinola and closed into the area near Mondragone for duty as beach patrol. On the 7th the Forward CP Group and Rear Echelon departed from Carinola, the Forward CP Group going to Cellole, the Rear Echelon moving into the area near San Angelo. On the same day, work details from Companies A, E, and C began to prepare gun positions. On the 8th the Pioneer Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, left San Angelo rear echelon area to join the balance of Reconnaissance Company at Mondragone. On the same day, 1 MLC, Company E, and approximately 50 enlisted men moved into firing position on the South bank near the mouth of the Carigliano River. On the 9th, between 1000-1100 hours and 1500-1600 hours, Reconnaissance Company received the first enemy shelling with no casualties. On the same day, 12 guns of Company A went into firing position near Cellole, 12 guns of Company C went into firing position near Fasani. One platoon of Reconnaissance Company took over detail of daily smoke screen on the South bridge over the Carigliano River. On the 10th, Company E completed its move into firing position near the north of the Carigliano River. At 1615 hours on this day marked the first action of this battalion against the enemy. Company C fired 16 rounds of smoke and 26 rounds of HE. On the 12th, seven Italian refugees were taken by Reconnaissance patrol as they landed on the beach near Mondragone and turned over to P.I.C. From this period to the end of the month Companies A, E, and C fired missions daily; harassing, registration and call fires. On the 14th the first battalion casualty was occasioned by the explosion of a Teller mine which demolished a 1/4 ton jeep while on patrol. The driver, 1Pc David L. Ferris, was lightly injured and was awarded the Purple Heart.

During this month Company E has received the heaviest enemy artillery, estimated to be 88mm, of any company in the battalion. On the 17th, between

1200-1300 hours, they were subjected to the heaviest attack, receiving 117 rounds. Fortunately, none of these enemy shells resulted in any casualties to personnel or damage to materiel. On the 17th, the 2nd Battery, Company F, moved into a new position across the Garigliano River. On the 18th, Italian refugees landed on the coast near Mondragone and were brought in by a Reconnaissance Company patrol and turned over to the C.I.C. On the 19th the 34th Infantry Regiment relieved the Reconnaissance Company from beach patrol duty. On the 20th, Company A moved its guns to a new position slightly north. On the same day Reconnaissance Company relieved the 5th British Reconnaissance Squadron across the Garigliano River. On the 27th, Company E completed laying a mine field along the beach near the mouth of the Garigliano River. On the 29th, the Pioneer Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, was relieved of its smoke detail on the Liniturno Bridge by a Fifth Army CB unit.

The end of the month finds this battalion with a total expenditure of:

HE	10,422 rounds
Smoke	802 rounds
AP or APC	9 rounds
AP or EDF	10 rounds
Loss of 1/4 ton jeep	
1 light casualty	

Companies A, E, and C are continuing to fire missions daily. Reconnaissance Company is operating outpost as part of a tank warning net. The morale of the men of this command is high and all are confident of their ability to continue their present assignment or move into a new operation if necessary.

Fred J. Rowell
FRED J. ROWELL,
Major, Infantry,
Commanding.