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

6 June 1944

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Month of May

TO : Commanding General,  
88th Infantry Division,  
APO 88, U. S. Army..

May 1944 has been the month in which this battalion has been put to its real test as a tactical unit. Having spent the last two months firing in their secondary mission and gaining battle experience, this battalion was ready for the missions assigned to it at the outset of the present campaign.

On the 1st of May, Captain Wallace L. Clement was relieved of his assignment as commander of Company A, and announced as Battalion Executive officer. 1st Lieutenant James T. Webster assumed command of Company A. During the first seven days of the month the tank destroyer companies were firing secondary missions. During this period the battalion suffered only one casualty; Private Bentura S Montano, Company C, was lightly wounded in action and was awarded the Purple Heart. On 6th May 1st Lieutenant Robert L. Boyce, Jr., was transferred to Personnel Center Number 6 for trans-shipment to the United States under the rotation policy. On the 7th May, Company C sent an advance detail into the Minturno Sector to prepare gun positions for their primary mission. During the period of 1 May to 11 May, the Reconnaissance Company was supporting infantry operations with 81mm (light) mortar fire. On the 7th May the Battalion Forward CP moved into an area across the Garigliano River, the Battalion Rear CP moving into the vicinity of Cellole. On 8th May companies A and C moved into forward positions and remained in readiness to perform their primary missions. All companies were in a state of readiness during the 9th and 10th May.

At 2300 hours, 11th May, this battalion took part in the beginning of this great offensive to join the beach head forces and drive to Rome. Company A gave direct support to the attack of the 349th Infantry Regiment and 753rd Tank Battalion. Company B took part in the offensive by performing their secondary mission, firing a total of 1879 rounds in one day. Company C gave direct support to the attack of the 351st Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance Company attached one platoon to Company A, one platoon to Company B while a third platoon supported the attack of the 350th Infantry Regiment with mortar fire. On the 12th and 13th Companies A, C and Reconnaissance continued their supporting operations. Company A prepared to occupy Mount Bracchi for direct fire on Spigno. During this movement one

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M-10 hit a teller mine and was out of action for 6 hours. Company B, while moving into a new position to perform their secondary mission had one M-10 put out of action for 24 hours, also as a result of hitting a mine. Company C supported Tank and infantry operations with direct fire on enemy positions in Santa Maria Infante. Reconnaissance Company during this period was used to act as outposts and clear enemy mine fields in newly occupied areas. While performing this mission one M-8 was damaged by shell fire and immediately replaced by a new one. On 12th May, Captain Theodore L. Urbas was relieved as Battalion S-4 and replaced by 1st Lieutenant William N. Weaver. 2nd Lieutenant Willard M. Lockhard was relieved of his duties from Company C and announced Communications Officer to replace Lieutenant Weaver. Reclassification proceedings were initiated on Captain Urbas.

On the 14th May, Companies A and C overwatched infantry and tank attacks on Spigno and Castellonorato respectively. Company B fired no missions on this date, but captured one German prisoner who was immediately turned over to the Division PW enclosure. Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered forward. Company C, on this date, had one man, Private First Class Alfred C. Widner, killed in action and 2nd Lieutenant John W. Kauth, First Sergeant Walter T. Jennings and Sergeant Stanley E. Bachauz, wounded in action as a result of shell fire. On 15th May all companies pressed reconnaissance forward but fired no missions. On 16th May, Battalion Forward CP moved to Spigno and Battalion Rear CP and Headquarters Company moved into an area in the vicinity of Rossi. All tank destroyer companies remained in assembly areas awaiting further orders. Reconnaissance Company went forward to maintain contact with advance infantry elements. On the 17th May, the tank destroyer companies remained inactive and Reconnaissance was attached to 85th Division for operations only, and established a CP at Scuari. On the 20th all tank destroyer companies and Reconnaissance moved into new assembly areas. Battalion Rear CP and Headquarters Company moved into the vicinity of Castellonorato. On the 21st May, all units of the battalion moved into areas in the vicinity of Fondi. From the 23rd to the 29th May, reconnaissance company patrolled the beach from Terracina to Sperango under II Corps control. On the 26th May, all tank destroyer companies and Forward CP moved into new assembly areas in the vicinity of Terracina. Battalion Rear CP and Headquarters Company moved into the vicinity of Monte San Biagio. On the 27th May all tank destroyer companies moved into combat positions in the vicinity of Piperno. Company A had two men wounded in action; Sergeant Leon O. White and Tec 5 Carrol L. Fink. 2nd Lieutenant Jacob Schnell, attached to company B, was lightly wounded in action. Sergeant George W. Danielson was seriously wounded in action. Company A was supporting tank and infantry operations while Company C supported tank operations beyond Roccagorga. At the end of the day Company C had one platoon in the vicinity of Maenza, two platoons between Maenza and Roccagorgia covering the road net from Carpineto. Companies A and B were moderately shelled. Company C was heavily shelled and suffered three light casualties, two of which remained on duty and one was sent to the clearing station. Battalion Rear CP and Headquarters Company moved into the vicinity of Staz. Priverno.

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On the 28th May, Company C overwatched the French armored attack up the valley toward Carpineto. Also on this date, Staff Sergeant Carl L. Bullock, Staff Sergeant Cella W. Corey and Private Louis A. Sorenson were transferred to Personnel Center Number 6 for trans-shipment to the United States under the rotation policy. Sergeant Stanley E. Eachauz was awarded the Purple Heart and Private Joseph F. Glester was cited in 88th Division G.O. for exemplary behaviour under fire.

As of 31 May the accumulative totals expended in battle are as follows:

3" ammunition	26,373 rounds
81mm(light) mortar	5,027
2 M-10's lost by enemy action	
1 M-8 lost by enemy action	
1 1/4-ton jeep lost by land mine.	

*Sidney N. Epstein*  
SIDNEY N. EPSTEIN,  
Captain, Infantry,  
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