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HEADQUARTERS  
804th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 464, U S ARMY.

:By authority of  
:CC 804th TD Bn :  
:Initials *WPA* :  
:Date: 13 Jun 45:

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314.7

13 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Month of May 1945.

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

On the 1st of May the following changes in assignments were made:  
1st Lieutenant SPADDIX transferred to Reconnaissance Company from Company C,  
1st Lieutenant YAWOPSKY transferred from Company D to Company C, Captain  
BOND's duties changed from Headquarters Company Commanding Officer to S-3,  
Captain CHANDLER from S-3 to Battalion Executive Officer, Captain DABEC from  
Battalion Motor Officer to Headquarters Company Commanding Officer, 1st Lieu-  
tenant FORCY from Headquarters Company Executive Officer to S-2, and 1st  
Lieutenant FIRTOE from Liaison Officer to Battalion Motor Officer.

The battalion was located in assembly areas in the vicinity of Treviso  
preparing to move into the 85th Division sector on the 1st of May. The  
battalion was relieved of attachment to 91st Infantry Division and attached  
to 85th Infantry Division, with Company A attached to 337th Infantry, Com-  
pany B attached to 338th Infantry and Company C attached to 339th Infantry.  
Reconnaissance Company remained attached to the 80th Infantry Division at  
Montebello. On the morning of the 2nd, Company B moved to the vicinity of  
Verona near Castagnole, with the 338th Infantry to clean out some bypassed  
pockets of Germans. The remainder of the battalion began moving to the  
vicinity of Feltre. Company A reached the vicinity of Mass with the 337th  
Infantry and participated in the capture and surrender of the 278th Infantry  
Division, part of the 76th Panzer Corps. It was estimated that 4000-5000  
prisoners were taken, complete with transports, artillery, supply and bag-  
gage trains. Company C advanced through Belluno with 339th Infantry after  
reducing a few pockets of resistance. Headquarters Company and Rear C.I.  
moved to Busche and Forward C.I. set up in San Giustina. The German Armies  
in Italy surrendered and hostilities ceased at 1600 hours on the 2nd. Re-  
connaissance Company moved to Valdagno.

On the 3rd Company C moved north from Belluno with 339th Infantry in 3  
task forces to take over the territory and troops surrendered by the Ger-  
mans. 73rd Corps Headquarters was taken over with all troops and equipment  
at Piave di Cadore. First Platoon, Company C, and First Platoon, 339th In-  
fantry took over 10th German Army Headquarters at Cortina D'Ampezzo at 0300  
hours on the 4th. Company C personally took Major General LILLI-CARTNER, 10th  
Army Engineer. General DOSTLER, 73rd Corps Commander was received from the  
Partisans at San Stefano. Company C was set up in Dobbiaco. The advance  
through the Alps was slow because of the snow. Company A with 337th Infantry  
was guarding the German surrender area in the vicinity of Mass, checking  
prisoners and collecting weapons. Reconnaissance Company moved to Lantecchio

**CANCELLED**  
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DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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and Company B moved to Feltre.

Third Platoon, Company C, with 1st Battalion, 939th Infantry, reached Brenner Pass on the 4th, and made contact with elements of 103rd Infantry Division of 7th American Army at 1615 hours. Company C was the first to cross the Alps, with armor, from the south. Their 1st platoon was located at S. Candido, and 2nd platoon at Cortina D'Alpezzo guarding Germans. On the 5th, the various elements of the battalion were in their assembly areas checking and cleaning equipment. Company C also prepared to block the Austrian Border. Their 2nd platoon set up a road block one mile east of Cortina on Highway 48. Reconnaissance Company returned to battalion control having been released from the 88th Infantry Division. During the period of 26 April to 2 May, while operating with 88th Division, the company took 1806 PW's. The company was scattered over a 30 mile area, northeast of Vicenza, protecting the Division's flank. Many times small patrols were greatly outnumbered by Germans but any resistance was quickly overcome and the enemy taken prisoner. On the 6th, Company C set up additional road blocks with 1st platoon at Sillian, Austria, and 3rd platoon at Lozzo. Along the 100 mile Division Supply Route, Reconnaissance Company took over duties of guarding convoys and operating radio relay stations.

1st Lieutenant ROWE and 15 enlisted men departed for the United States on rotation on the 5th, and on the 6th Captain CHANDLER, 1st Lieutenant FIRTOS and 23 men left for the same destination. Major CLEMENT returned to the unit after having been a prisoner since 22 April. He was freed at Bolzano by an American Task Force.

During the period, 7 May to 25 May, the battalion remained with the 85th Division, policing the sector and processing prisoners. A training program, consisting of orientation, athletics and refresher courses, was carried on at this time. Company C moved to Prato on the 18th and Reconnaissance Company moved to Villa Basso on the 20th. On the 25th, the battalion was alerted for a possible move to the Redeployment Area at Montecatini. The companies closed into the area Busche-S. Guistina in preparation for the move. The battalion was relieved from attachment to 85th Division and brought under Army Control at 0001 hours, 28 May.

1st Lieutenant DRUCE A. BERLIN returned from the hospital on the 25th and was reassigned to Reconnaissance Company. Thirteen officers and 52 enlisted replacements joined the battalion on the 25th. 1st Lieutenant RALPH R. SHAW, Jr., 2nd Lieutenant NORMAN A. VANASSE, 2nd Lieutenant JOHN J. PREPELITZA, Jr. were assigned to Reconnaissance Company. 1st Lieutenant EDWARD YOCHEK, 2nd Lieutenant JOHN B. GREGG, 2nd Lieutenant CARL V. JOHNSON were assigned to Company C. 1st Lieutenant SHERMAN A. WASHEURN and 1st Lieutenant GLENN W. SMITH were assigned to Company B, and 1st Lieutenant JOHN W. BINTON and 1st Lieutenant GUY W. McCARTY were assigned to Company A. Captain JOSEPH C. BELLEAU, 2nd Lieutenant GEORGE D. SIMPSON and 2nd Lieutenant ROLLAND L. JACKSON were assigned to Headquarters Company. 2nd Lieutenant JOHN MORRISSEY was transferred to 2633rd Service Company on 28 May. 1st Lieutenant BENJAMIN H. ZUBER, Jr. was promoted to Captain 15 May, and 2nd Lieutenant JOE A. CALLAWAY was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on 13 May 1945.

Awards:

Master Sergeant FRANK RADOSEVICH of Headquarters Company was awarded the Legion of Merit per CO #78, Hq LTCUSA, 27 March 1945, for Services in United Kingdom, North Africa and Italy.

The Purple Heart was awarded per CO #9, Hq 804th TD Bn, 12 May 1945 to the following:

1st Lieutenant BYREL A. MOORE, Company C, for wounds received 27 April.  
2nd Lieutenant WILLIAM F. JOHNSON, Reconnaissance Company, for wounds received 15 April in Italy.

Sergeant LORENZO MCINTOYA, Company A, for wounds received 27 April in Italy.

Sergeant CLIFFORD OLSON, Company B, for wounds received 25 August 1944 in Italy.

Corporal JOHN T. GADDY, Company A, for wounds received 30 April in Italy.

Technician Fifth Grade ROBERT L. COLEY, Company C, for wounds received 27 April in Italy.

Private First Class FRANCIS L. BEITER, Company A, for wounds received 6 June 1944 in Italy.

Private First Class JAMES B. WALTERSTEIN, Company B, for wounds received 17 September 1944 in Italy.

Private RANDLE E. NICHOLSON, Reconnaissance Company, for wounds received 20 April in Italy.

Total casualties sustained by the Battalion in the Italian Campaign from 9 March 1944 to 2 May 1945 were 21 killed, 2 missing in action and 120 wounded. Armor lost during the campaign totaled 9 M10 Destroyers and 4 M8 Armored Cars.

Ammunition expenditures, other than small arms, during the campaign totaled 208,574 rounds as follows:

3 inch	HE	174230	37 mm		2379
3 inch	HE R/C	14896	81 mm	Lt	6607
3 inch	R/C smoke	128		Hvy	775
3 inch	AF	2372		smk	12
3 inch	smoke	6143	60 mm	HE	605
3 inch	illum.	424	illum.		3

FOR THE BATTALION COMMANDER:

*Walter B. Fowler*  
WALTER B. FOWLER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
Adjutant.