

IN ANSWER TO your letter REGARDING whether the 601 TD BN had 37mm Towed or if they were M-6 self propelled. I must confess TIME HAS DIMMED MY MEMORY! I served ON THE HALF TRACKS SO I JUST CAN'T HELP YOU

TO THE BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION I RAN AROUND ANZIO TESTING THE M-18. ON THE BREAKOUT I ENDED UP TESTING IT IN COMBAT. THE DAMN LOOKED JUST LIKE A MARK 4 AND OUR ARTILLERY GAVE US HELL. MINE SUSTAINED SOME DAMAGE AND I TOOK OVER AN M-10

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF A COMMENDATION I RECEIVED LONG AFTER THE WAR ENDED. THE COMMENDATION IS FULL OF ERRORS BUT IT MAY HELP YOUR CONTEMPLATED T.D. HISTORY.

THE MARK 4 TANKS PLUS AN ESTIMATED BATTALION OF INFANTRY (THE GERMANS WOULD NEVER COMMIT 17 TANKS WITHOUT PLenty OF INFANTRY ON A BREAKOUT ATTEMPT) THE ATTACK WAS AIMED AT THE 45TH DIVISION. WE WERE WITH THE THIRD DIVISION INFANTRY ON THE 45TH SOUTH FLANK.

THE GERMAN TANKS WERE GOING EAST TO WEST LIKE DUCKS AT A SHOOTING GALLERY. THEY WERE ON A VERY NARROW, MUDDY ROAD, WITH DEEP DITCHES ON EITHER SIDE. A SHERMAN M-4 PULLED OUT FROM BEHIND A ~~HOUSE~~ THE GERMAN LEAD TANK SET THE AMERICAN TANK AFIRE. WE KNOCKED OFF THE GERMAN LEAD TANK AND SWUNG TO THE EIGHTH THAT HAD SPOTTED US AND WAS LAYING DOWN FIRE HE MISSED AND WE HIT. THE BALANCE OF THE 17 PULLED BACK BEHIND A KNOLL. WE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY PICKING OFF THE GERMAN TANKS AND SHOOTING UP THE INFANTRY UNTILL THEY TO RETIRED BEHIND THE KNOLL. FORTUNATELY I HAD ONE HELL OF A LOT OF 3 INCH AMMO AT MY SITE.

MY RECOIL MECHANISM FELL APART IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AFTERNOON WE HAD BEEN GOING SINCE FIRST LIGHT.

I THEN WENT INTO A BUNKER THE INFANTRY HAD BUILT IN THE BOLLING. ~~THE~~ MY PLATOON COMMANDER AGREED TO GET INTO THE M-10 (FOR THE TIME THAT DAY) I WOULD TAKE OFF ON FOOT ABOUT 1/2 MILE BACK TO OUR NUMBER 2 M-10 WHICH WAS IN A POSITION BEHIND ANOTHER FARM HOUSE. MY PLATOON COMMANDER WOULD NOT ORDER UP THE #2-3 OR 4 M-10'S NOR COULD I GET ARTILLERY OR AIR SUPPORT -

WE PULLED THE #2 M-10 OUT IN THE OPEN. I HAD POINTS OF REFERENCE - WE SENT OUT SMOKE SHELLS THIS MADE EASY FOR THE PLATOON COMMANDER TO MAKE CORRECTIONS AND WE QUICKLY SET THE LAST TWO MARK-4'S ON FIRE

OVER

That night The Germans reTreated The LAST 2 TANKS
When Their PATROLS realized The TOTAL damage They STOPPED
THAT.

The other six STAYED right where They were. ~~etc~~
The reason The commendation SAYS six is THAT They TOOK
AN Aerial PHOTO and of course WHAT WAS LEFT WAS SIX
No one ASKED me on my crew WHAT had happened. I SAW
The PHOTO They had given IT To The PLATOON COMMANDER

Really got 8 MK IVs

SILVER STAR MEDAL

For gallantry in action. On 29 February 1944, at
1100 hours, about 2 miles south of ***, ***, 17 German
Mark IV tanks and an unknown number of enemy infantry
attacked in the vicinity of an M-10 Tank Destroyer com-
manded by Sergeant Hawks. Disregarding the obvious odds
against him, and realizing that his was the only Destroyer
in the vicinity, he ordered his Destroyer into an exposed
position. Shells from an enemy artillery concentration land-
ed as close as 10 feet from his Destroyer; however, he
skillfully carried out his Platoon Commander's fire sensings
that he completely destroyed 6 enemy tanks. Sergeant Hawks
played an important part in the smashing of a real threat
to our lines.

(Auth: GO 252, Hqs 3rd Inf Div, dtd 5 Nov 44, Sgt, Inf)

BC, 2
gh 8MK IV
Htl