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HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 339 US Army 3 May 45

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Period 1 April 1945 Through 30 April 1945, Inclusive.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, DC

The following history for this organization is hereby submitted in accordance with AR 345-105, incl c/3, dtd 9 Mar 43:

- a. Unit No change
- b. Changes in Organisation No change
- c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:
 - (1) At Beginning of Period:

Officers - 35 Warrant Officers - 1 Enlisted Men - 605

(2) Net Increase for Month:

Officers + 2 Warrant Officers - 0 Enlisted Men - 0

(3) Net Decrease for Period:

Officers - 0 Warrant Officers - 0 Enlisted Men - 18

(4) Strength at End of Period:

Officers - 37 Warrant Officer - 1 Enlisted Men - 587

d. Stations of Unit or Parts thereof:

Station: OBE HATTERT, GERMANY (026301)

At beginning of period Date of Departure - 1 Apr 45

URGENDORF, GERMANY (278402)

Date of Arrival - 1 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 8 Apr 45

DUEZ, GERMANY (283538)

Date of Arrival - 8 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 10 Apr 45

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------KHEUZTAL, GERMANY (G1762) Date of Arrival - 10 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 11 Apr 45 OLPE, GERMANY (Ø887Ø1) Date of Arrival - 11 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 13 Apr 45 KIERSPE, GERMANY (895824) Date of Arrival - 13 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 15 Apr 45 VORDE, GERMANY (761005) Date of Arrival - 15 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 20 Apr 45 WIPPERFURTH, GERMANY (772803) Date of Arrival - 20 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 24 Apr 45 BERG GLADBACH, GERMANY (563850) Date of Arrival - 24 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 24 Apr 45 BENBATH, GERMANY + (387850) Date of Arrival - 24 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 28 Apr 45 BARNTRUP, GERMANY (955784)

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Date of Arrival - 28 Apr 45 Date of Departure - 29 Apr 45 KIRCHWEYHE, GERMANY (881932) Date of Arrival - 29 Apr 45 Station at end of period.

e. Marches.

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(1) Purpose

(a) Marches were made in order to maintain close contact with the enemy and also to maintain close supply and administration with gun companies advancing north. In the latter part of the period the Bn moved to REWRATH to assume payrol and police duties under MG jurisdiction in the town of DUSSELDORF, GERMANY. At the close of the period the Bn moved to KIRCHWEYHE, GERMANY, a move of approximately 240 miles to a new sector.

(2) Length of Datiy March:

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	(b.0d et 8h111)	OBB HATTERT to WURGENDORF - 25 miles (Approx) WURGENDORF to DUEZ - 14 miles (Approx) DUEZ to KHEUZTAL - 17 miles (Approx) DUEZ to KHEUZTAL - 17 miles (Approx) OLPE to KIERSPE - 20 miles (Approx) KHEUZTAL to OLPE - 11 miles (Approx) OLPE to KIERSPE - 20 miles (Approx) VORDE to WIPPERFURTH - 22 miles (Approx) WIPPEHFURTH to BERG GLADBACH-20 miles (Approx) BEERG GLADBACH to BENRATH - 20 miles (Approx) BEENG ALADBACH to BENRATH - 110 miles (Approx) BEENRATH to BARNTRUP - 110 miles (Approx) BARNTHUP to KIRCHWEYHE - 130 miles (Approx)	
(3)		s Between Which Marched, and Dates:	
	(2)	To move the Bn at beginning of period from OBR HATTERT via HACHENBURG to a new station in WURGENDORF on 1 Apr 45.	
	(b)	To move the Bn on 8 Apr 45 from WURGENDORF via WILNSDORF and RUDERSDORF to a new station at DEUZ.	
	(a)	To move the Bn on 10 Apr 45 from DUEZ via the towns of KLAFELD and BUSCHUTTEN to a new area at KREUZTAL.	
	(4)	To move the Bn on 11 Apr 45 from KREUZTAL via KROMBACH to a new station at OLPE.	
	(•)	To move the Bn on 13 Apr from OLPE via the towns of DROLSHAGEN, WEGERINGHAUSEN, MEINZERHAGEN and KIERSPE-BAHNOF to a new station at KIERSPE.	
	(1)	To move the Bn on 15 Apr from KIERSPE via the towns of HALVER and BRECKERFELD to a new location at VORDE.	
	(g)	To move the Bn on 20 Apr 45 from VORDE via the towns of BHECKERFELD and HALVER to a new station in WIPPERFORTH.	÷
	(h)	To move the Bn from WIPPERFURTH on 24 Apr 45 via the towns of OHE and STEEG to a new location in BEEG GLADBACH.	
	(i)	To move the Bn on 24 Apr 45 from BERG GLADBACH via the towns of PAFFRATH, SCHLEBUCH, OPALDEN and LANGENFELD to a new station at BENRATH.	5
	(1)	To move the Bn on 28 Apr 45 from BENRATH via DUSSELDORF, WUPPERTAL, WILTEN, DORTHUND, WERL, SOEST, ERWITTE, GESEKE and PADERBORN to close in assembly area vio of BARNTRUP.	Q.
	1.4	To move the Bn on 29 Apr 45 from BARNTRUP via HAMELN, ELZE, HILDESCHEIM, BRAUNSCHEV, GIFHORN and UELZEN to a new area of operations at KIRCHWEYHE.	
(4) consisted ge	Con	dition of Roads and Weather: Roads were good and ly of main highways or improved hard-topped roads.	
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Weather was generally warm and sunny with the exception of the road march from BENHATH to KIRCHWEYHE. This march was made during cold weather and heavy rain.

- (5) Marches were made without incident.
- f. Campaigns: CENTRAL EUROPE (22 Mar 45 through end of period)
- g. Battles:
 - (1) BATTLE OF THE RUHR (Beginning of period to 16 Apr 45)
 - (a) The Enemy (Cont'd)
 - 1. (See Bn Hist for Month of March)

Opposing the Corps sector at the beginning of the period were the following enemy units: 12 VG, 9 Pz Div, 59 Inf Div, 62 VG Div, 130 Pz LEHR Div, 340 VG Div. A linkup between the VII Corps and NINTH US Army at LIPPSTADT isolated the RUHR and it was estimated by G-2 that enemy trapped in this pocket would attempt to reorganize and counterattack to the East. Early estimates placed the number of enemy troops at approx 82,500 to 100,000 troops. Average strength of Div was placed at 3500 with 3000 troops making up Pz and Pz Gren Divisions. Army Group B, 5 Ps Army, 15 Army and elements of one Prcht Army had constituted a total of 13 Inf Divs, 4 Pz Divs, with approx 57,500 combat troops.

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The enemy opposing the Div Sector was faced with two possibilities: (a) To defend his present position with support of at least 2 Inf Divs and 20 tanks and assault guns, and (b) to launch a coordinated counterattack against the right flank of Div employing 1 Pz Div, remnants of another Pz Div, and elements of 1 Pz Gren Div.

No special weapons were used.

Morale was at a low ebb but combat troops fought hard and agressively in an attempt in an attempt to withold us from the RUHR.

- 2. Enemy defenses were hasty but were bitterly contested. Defense consisted mainly of strongpoints built around road junctions and towns. Road blocks, counterattacks by Inf & SPs and infiltration methods were used.
- 2. The 8th Division (US), located SW of SIEGEN, with that town as its objective, had contacted the following units in its advance to the SIEG Biver: 1/1034 Inf Regt, 2/1034, 2/1036 Inf Regt, in the BETZDORF area. 1/1036 Inf Regt, 1 &

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2/1035 Inf Regts and 12 Fus Bn in the vicinity of WISSEN.

By 4 Apr 45 the additional units of the 27 Fus Bn and 89 VG had been identified and enemy resistance had gradually weakened.

By 9 Apr 45 the Division was opposed by 12 VGD, 353 Inf Div, 3 Para Tng and Hepl Hegt plue miscellaneous units. At this time the enemy had been forced to withdraw to the North and was expected to make a determined stand SW of LAKE LISTER TALSPEEHE. The possibility of a counterattack to the East had disappeared and the Division had been further assigned the mission of taking HAGEN as its objective. On this date the 13 Inf Hegt of the 8th US Inf Div had reached the HHUR River and had severed the RUHR Pocket linking with units advancing to the South.

Those major units opposing the Division sector had disintegrated or had slid to either slde of the Division by 14 Apr. Those units contacted had some semblance of command presumably by Army or Gp Hq. Light contact was made with 2 Para, 338 and 176 Inf Div. Forced into the NW corner of the pocket were the 180 & 190 VG Divisions.

Enemy counterattacks were extensively used and consisted of approx 100 Inf supported by tanks or SPs.

Enemy air was practically non-existent.

Enemy armor consisted of an estimated strength of approx 20 tanks. By the end of the period the Div had accounted for well over that number.

Enemy artillery was used extensively during the early stages of the period but gradually diminished in the face of our advance due to lack of motorization and destruction by our counterbattery, Air Corps and TDs.

Enemy equipment destroyed during the period is listed as follows:

MGs - 4 Half tracks - 5 105mm guns - 8 AT guns - 4 Tanks - Mk IV - 2 GP Vehs - 49 20 AA guns - 2 Mk V - 2 Ammo trailers -Miso trailers - 13 14

4. All PWs captured during the period were turned over to infantryelements. During the period the 8th Infantry Div and atchd units accounted for 49,181 prisoners. This unit accounted for 976 PWs.

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- (b) Elements affecting action:
 - 1. Enemy information was non-eristant. This fact was proven by the blunders made in counterattacking strong forces opposing him when weaker sectors existed.

Enemy reconnaissance was used to some small extent and then only to counterattack or infiltrate back into towns we had captured.

At the beginning of the period the enemy probed in order to determine the most likely avenue to the East, through which he could escape from the pocket. This reconnaissance proved costly to him and obviously gained little or no information.

2. Civilian population was docile and many expressed their feelings in that they were glad the war was over for them and that continuing to fight was hopeless. They did not hinder operations in any way and had no effect on the action.

2. Bature of terrain:

Terrain was hilly and heavily wooded interspersed with many streams, lakes and rivers. The mountains canalised woods and offered a good defense by means of road blocks and good fields of fire from high ground.

(o) Actions

- 1. 644th TD Bn attached to 8th Inf Div.
- Mission: To support infantry elements of Sth Inf Div in attack to the North with the mission of destroying or capturing all enemy forces opposing the Div sector in the RUHR Pocket.

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BARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF ACTION

At the beginning of the period the b44th Tank Destroyer Battalion continueu to be attached to the 8th Infantry Division. The Battalion (less Companies A, B, and C) was further attached to the 8th Division Artillery; Company A (less 3d Platoon) was attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment; 3d Platoon, Company A, was attached to the 8th Reconnaiseance Troop; Company B was attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment; Company C was attached to the 121st Infantry Regiment. Dispositions were as follows:

Forward CP	ALLENDORF
Hear CP	TIRGENDORF
Company A CP	GEBHARDSHATM
Ist Platoon, Company A	TSSEN
2d Platoon, Company A	GEBHARDSHAIN

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3d Platoon, Company A	RUPPERHAUSEN
Company B CP	NEUNKIRCHEN
1st Platoon, Company B	
2d Platoon, Company B	
3d Platoon, Company B	
Company C CP	
lat Platoon, Company C	KAAN
2d Platoon, Company C	BEIENBACH
3d Platoon, Company C	
Reconnaissance Company CP .	
1st Platoon, Bcn Co	
2d Platoon, Ron Co	
3d Platoon, Ren Co	
Pioneer Plat, Rcn Co	HAINCHEN
	ALLENDORF
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On the 2d and 3d of April Company A (less 3d Platoon) supported the 28th Infantry Regiment in assault missions. No armor was encountered and action consisted of mopping up of pockets of resistance immediately north of the SIEG River. The 3d Platoon of Company A, attached to TFC of 8th Infantry Division, supported this unit in attack.

Company B supported the 13th Infantry with all three (3) platoons in the attack upon SIEGEN and north of SIEGEN.

Company C supported the 121st Infantry with all three (3) platoons in an attack north and east of SIEGEN. One (1) tank destroyer of the 3d Platoon was hit and destroyed on 2 May 45 during a fire fight with enemy tanks.

The 3d Platoon of Reconnaissance Company, patrolling the zone of the 121st Infantry Regiment, secured three (3) towns during the period.

On 4 April Company A (less 3d Platoon) continued to support the 28th Infantry Regiment in that regiment's zone of advance. The 3d Platoon, Company A, attached to the 8th Reconnaissance Troop, continued its anti-armor defense of that sector.

Company B continued to support the 13th Regiment which was counter-attacked frequently and quite heavily in the SIEGEN area. Company B was instrumental in repelling the counter-attacks, firing 3" HE, Cal .50 MGs and rifles. No armor was encountered in these attacks.

Company C continued to support the l21st Regiment in its zone of advance. One (1) Mark VI tank was fired upon by the 2d Platoon. Hits were scored at 400 yards range with both APCBDF and HVAP. Tank was not destroyed, probably due to the angle of fire, but withdrew due to this action.

The lst Section, 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, operated patrols in the 13th Infantry sector. The 3d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, patralled in the 121st Infantry sector.

On 5 April Company A, attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment, moved with the 28th Infantry to the zone on the right flank of the 8th Division sector. The 3d Platoon was released from attachment to the 8th Reconnaissance Troop and re-joined Company A.

Company B, attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment, prepared

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for attack in the zone of the 13th Infantry.

Company C, attached to the 121st Infantry Regiment, prepared for attack in the zone of the 121st Infantry.

The 1st, 2d and 3d Platoons of Reconnaissance Company were attached to Companies A, B, and C, respectively.

On 6 April Company A supported the attack of the 28th Infantry in their new zone of advance. No armor was encountered.

Company B supported the 13th Infantry in their attack. All platoons fired numerous support missions against enemy buildings, personnel and strongpoints. No armor was encountered. One enemy counter-attack was repelled.

Company C supported the 121st Regiment in its attack and fired missions against enemy buildings, strongpoints and personnel.

All three Reconnaissance Company platoons, attached to the firing companies, engaged in reconnoitering and mopping up the flanks in each of the three (3) regimental zones of advance.

On 7 April Company A supported the 28th Infantry Regiment in its zone of advance. Resistance was somewhat lighter than that previously experienced. One (1) half-track and one (1) small anti-tank gun were encountered and destroyed.

Company B continued to support the 13th Infantry Regiment in its attack. Several counter-attacks were repelled by fire from the tank destroyers.

Company C continued to support the l21st Infantry Regiment with two (2) platoons. The 1st Platoon of Company C spent the entire period at the Company CP, performing maintenance and reorganization.

Reconnaiseance Company, one platoon attached to each of the firing companies, had three platoons engaged in reconnoitering and mopping up the flanks of each of the three (3) regiments of the division.

One (1) M-10 deadlined for repairs. One (1) M-10 to be delivered to Company C during next period to replace the one which was knocked out 2 April 1945.

On 8 April Company A was attached to the 85th Infantry Division, at 1600 hours.

Company B continued to support the 13th Infantry Regiment in its zone of advance. Several close support missions were fired. Two (2) machine gun emplacements were destroyed.

Company C, attached to 121st Infantry Regiment, supported that regiment with two (2) platoons on the line and one platoon in reserve, performing maintenance until 1700 hours. At 1700 hours the Reserve Platoon (2d) was also placed in the line to exploit a small breakthrough. Several close support missions were fired.

All three Reconnaissance Company platoons, attached to the firing companies, engaged in reconnoitering and mopping up the

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flanks in each of the three regimental zones of advance. 3d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, patrolling in advance of the infantry, captured 29mPWs.

On 9 April Company A was attached to the 342d Infantry Regiment of the 86th Infantry Division. Company A supported the 342d in their some of attack.

Company B supported the 13th Infantry in their zone of attack with all three platoons. Several assault missions were fired and two (2) Mark IV tanks were destroyed.

Company C supported the 121st Infantry Regiment with all three (3) platoons in their zone of advance.

All three Reconnaissance Company platoons, attached to the firing Companies, engaged in reconnoitering and mopping up the flanks of each of the three regiment's zones of advance.

On 10 April Company A, attached to the 86th Infantry Division, supported the 342d Infantry Regiment in attack. Resistance encountered was light. No armor was seen.

Company B supported the 13th Infantry in their some of advance and destroyed the following equipment: One (1) Mark V tank, two (2) half-tracks, two (2) German 105mm gun batteries (5 guns), five (5) general purpose vehicles, and four (4) ammo trailers.

Company C supported the 121st Infantry in their zone of advance and fired close support missions at enamy positions.

Reconnaissance Company continued reconnoitering and mopping up the flanks in each of the regimental zones of advance.

On 11 April Company A, attached to the 86th Infantry Division, was further attached to the 343d Infantry Regiment. One platoon was placed in support of each battalion. Company gave close support to this regiment with all three platoons in said regiment's zone of advance.

Company B, attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment after release from attachment to the 13th Infantry Regiment at the beginning of the period. Two (2) enemy columns were caught on the road. In one column 12 GP vehicles were destroyed and in the other 18 large trucks and 13 trailers were destroyed.

Company C supported the attack of the 121st Infantry Regiment.

Reconnuissance Company had one platoon attached to each of the firing companies and engaged in reconnoitering and mopping up the flanks of each of the three regiments in the division.

On 12 April Company A, attached to the 86th Infantry Division, and further attached to the 343d Infantry Regiment, supported that regiment in attack, with three platoons. Company A knocked out two (2) 20mm AA guns.

Company B supported the 2sth Infantry Regiment with all three platoons. Two GP vehicles were destroyed and one 150 artillery piece was knocked out and destroyed.

Company C supported the 121st Infantry Regiment. One halftrack and one 105mm artillery piece were knocked out and destroyed.

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Reconnaissance Company continued to patrol in the Division sector, cleaning up pockets of resistance and protecting Regimental flanks.

On 13 April the Battalion (less Companies A, B, C) remained attached to the sth Infantry Division Artillery.

Company A, attached to the 86th Infantry Division, placed a platoon in support of each regiment. Each platoon supported its regiment in their respective zones of advance.

Company B supported the 28th Infantry Regiment with all three platoons. The 3d platoon had one M-10 destroyed when a mortar round dropped into the open turret, setting off ammunition and causing the destroyer to burn. This platoon destroyed one German hair-track and four General Purpose vehicles.

Company C was attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment at the beginning of the period and supported that regiment with all three platoons. Several close support missions were fired.

Reconnaissance Company continued to have three platoons attached to the three firing companies and patrolled and mopped up the flanks of each regimental zone of advance. 2d Platoon of Reconnaissance Company captured 74 PWs.

On 14 April the Battalion remained attached to 8th Infantry Division Artillery (less Companies A, B and C).

Company A remained attached to the Soin Division. One platoon was placed in support of the 34ist Infantry Regiment, one platoon in support of the 342a Infantry Regiment and one platoon in support of the 343d Infantry Regiment. The platoons supported each of these regiments in their respective zones of advance.

Company B supported the attack of the 28th Hegiment in its zone of advance with all three of its platoons.

Company C supported the 13th Regiment in its zone of advance with all three platoons.

Meconnaissance Company attached one platoon to the 28th Infantry Regiment and one platoon to the 13th Infantry Regiment. These platoons were active in mopping up pockets of resistance. The 2d Platoon worked as point for an armored and infantry column in the 28th infantry pector. The 1st Platoon remained attached to Company A in the 85th Infantry plvision Secotr.

On 15 April Companies A, B, and C were attached to the 86th Infantry Division, the 121st Infantry meglument, and the 13th Infantry Regiment, respectively. The Battalion (less Companies A, B, C) was attached to 8th Division Artillery.

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One platoon of Company A was in support of each regiment of the 86th Division and supported these regiments in their advance to the HOHR River. One (1) Mark V tank was destroyed.

Company B was attached to the 121st Infantry Regiment when that regiment passed through the 28th Regiment at the beginning of the period. Company B supported the 121st Infantry Regiment with all three platoons in their zone of advance to the West, after the RUHR River had been reached on the preceding day.

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Company C supported the 13th Regiment with all three platoons in their zone of advance to the West, after the RHHR River had been reached on the preceding day.

Reconnaiseance Company, in the 13th and 121st Infantry Regiment zones of advance, patrolled aggressively, making contact with the enemy before commitment of infantry troops and armor.

On 16 April the Battalion remained (less Companies A, B, C) attached to the 8th Infantry Division Artillery.

Company A, attached to the 85th Infantry Division, supported each Infantry Regiment of the Division.

Company B supported the 121st Infantry Regiment with all three platoons in their zone of advance. Early in the period one destroyer was knocked out by fire from a 105 Flak Gun. Later in the period good progress was made against light resistance.

Company C supported the 13th Infantry Regiment in their zone of advance with all three platoons. Good progress was made during the entire period.

Reconneissance Company mopped up pockets of resistance in the 8th Infantry Division zone of advance.

On 17 April the Battalion (less Companies A, B, C) remained attached to 8th Infantry Division Artillery.

Company A was relieved from attachment to the 86th Infantry Division as of 1200 hours 17 April. Company A assembled in LUDENSCHEID (931913) and remained there awaiting further orders. Company engaged in maintenance of materiel.

Company B, attached to the 121st Infantry Regiment, maintained anti-armor defense positions throughout the regimental sector.

Company C, attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment, maintained anti-armor defense positions throughout the regimental sector.

Reconnaissance Company had one platoon attached to each firing company and engaged in maintenance of materiel.

On 18 April the Battalion (less Cos A and C) was attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment at the beginning of the period.

Company A, attached to the 28th Infantry, moved to an assembly area at NEUENKLEUSHEIM.

Company B moved to an assembly area at MILSPE.

Company C moved to an assembly area in LUDENSCHEID.

All platoons of Esconnaissance Company were released from the firing companies to which attached and assembled at the Reconnaissance Company CP in MILSPE.

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On 19, April the Battalion (less Cos A and C) remained attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment. Company A was attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment and Company C to the 121st Infnatry Regiment.

The Forward CP and Reconneissance Company moved to BEFRATH and Company B to DUSSELDORF. The mission given the entire Bn was security and Military Government.

For the period 201200 April 1945 until 25 April 1945 the Battalion (less Cos A and C) remained attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment. All echelons were engaged in security and military government of the DUSSELDORF area.

Company A, attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment, was engaged in securing their assigned area and in military government work in the vicinity of OLPE.

Company C, attached to the 121st Infantry Regiment, engaged in security and military government of their assigned area in vicinity of DUNNWALD.

In the afternoon of the 25th all elements of the Battalion were relieved from attachment to other units and assembled in the BENRATH area. A program of maintenance of materiel and preparation for a motor march was carried on until 28 April 1945. On the 28th of April the Battalion moved to GODDINGEN, GERMANY, SE of HAMBURG. The Battalion closed in this area late on the 29th of April. The Battalion engaged in maintenance of materiel on 30 April. Just before the close of the period Company A moved across the ELRE River to support the 504th Parachute Regiment of the 82d Airborne Division.

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At the close of the period the Battalion (less Company A and the Rear CP) were in an assembly area in the vicinity of GODDINGEN, GERMANY. Company A was across the ELBE River supporting the 504th Parachute Regiment of the 82d Airborne Division. The Battalion Rear CP was located at KIRCHWEYHE, GERMANY.

3. Special Weapons Used: None

Communications were maintained between lower echelons by radio. Due to the rapid moving situation it was impractical to use wire.

4. Assistance from Artillery: Not applicable

Assistance from Supporting Engineers: Not applicable.

- Use of Bayonet, Grenades, Flame-Throwers, Etc.: Not applicable.
- 6. Supply and Evacuation: Not applicable

7. Casualties: See attached casualty list.

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h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:

Bn Comdr: Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR

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	co,	Hq Co	1-9 Apr 10-18 Apr 19-30 Apr		R GARTO			
	co,	Co A	1-18 Apr 19-30 Apr					
	co,	Co B		Capt GERALD	L HOFFER	1		
	co,	Co C		Capt LESLIE	P McDOUG	AL		
	co,	Ron Co		Capt HAROLD	L HOFFER	1		
1.	Loss	ses in	Action - 0	fficers and Enl	isted Ne	a		
	(1)	Enga	gement:					
		Battl	le of the R	UHR (Beginning	of perio	d to 16	Apr 4	5)
	(2)	Name	: See para	graphs (3) and	(4), bel	ow.		
	(3)	Kille	d in Action	D:				
		(=) (fficers:					
		1	A Lt RICHAL	ED T MOORE, 093	4302			
		(b) E	Inlisted Men					
		S	igt Kenneth	A Lagroe, 3218 Shimer, 33418 G Todd, 334171 to B DiCesare,	22			
		c	pl William	J McHeil, 3347	6076			
		Ţ	ec 5 Glenn eo 5 Berner	A Walker, 3940 rd Helsman, 334	5550 76149			
				Cimino, 3269006 Clifton, 161115				
		P P	vt Donald W vt Harry E	Schaffer, 336 Reeves, 366945	90314 51			
	(4)	Tound	ed in Actic	201				
÷		(.) 0	fficers:					
		1	st Lt WILLI	AM M PATTON, O	1824358			
		(b) E	nlisted Men	11				
		SSS HCCCH	gt Angelo M gt John R A gt Miles B sc 4 David pl Joseph A pl Frank P pl Joseph J sc 4 Clyde	I J L101, 32003 Iacagliotta, 321 Ilender, 392719 Hipp, 34058784 M Tinsley, 381 DeRosa, 320036 Udiljak, 321836 Herney, 320466 E Matney, 37156 V Tobin, 37269	114345 917 50442 996 545 545 525 8297			

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Tec 4 Michael D Arndt, 39271938 Pfc Victor G Walters; 11083951

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Pfc Thomas P Capito, 33408100 Pfc Martin Bhodeside, 33415726 Pfc Patrick J O'Connor, 32003896 Pfc Amos E Coty, 31322254 Pfc Raymond Del Castello, 39034851 Pvt William E Pueschel, 36691415 Pvt Justice Long, 33418376 Pvt James Stafford, 33476072

(5) Missing in Action: None

J. Members Distinguishing Themselves in Action: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CHOSS First Lieutenant Hobert A Parker, 01823478, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism against the enemy on 18 December 1944, in Belgium. When seven enemy tanks attacked the town accupied by his organisation, First Lieu-tenant Parker secured a rocket launcher and made his way to a ruined barn, from which he scored a direct hit on one of the vehicles. Working his way through the firmswort straets, he suproceeded to Working his way through the fireswept streets, he approached to Working his way through the fireswept streets, he approached to within forty yards of the group of tanks, and opened fire, setting one tank ablase and immobilizing another. Although subjected to devastating 75mm and machine gun fire, he continued to fire rapidly and damaged three more tanks before being wounded by enemy machine gun fire. His ammunition exhamated, he made his way back to his unit headquarters where he organized two rocket launcher teams and directed them incliminating the remainder of the hostile tanks. Entered military service from Washington. (GO 65, Hq First US Army, dtd 21 Apr 45). First US Army, dtd 21 Apr 45).

SILVER STAR (Posthumously)

Corporal Leo E Hart, 39549161, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company A, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 February 1945 in the vicinity of

, Germany. After his tank destroyer was knooked out by enemy tank fire, wounding two members and forcing the remainder of the crew to abandon it, Corporal Hart located the enemy tank through the ground haze, then ' remembed the tank destroyer in an attempt to repair his gun and bring fire upon the enemy. He was fatally wounded when the enemy affected another hit on the tank destroyer. His great courage and complete disregard for his own personal safety were an inspiration to all who saw him, antered the military service from California. (GO 85, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 11 Apr 45)

BRONZE STAR

First Lieutenant Charles P Dodds, 01170710, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer) Company A, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 28 February 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. While exposed to enemy SP Fire, Lieutenant Dodds, on foot, led tank destroyers into position and directed their fire. His heroic action and courage enabled the tank destroyers to knock out one enemy Self-Propelled gun and one other vehicle. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania. (GO 83, 8th Inf Div, dtd 8 Apr 45).

Private First Class Henry A Bragg, 33723553, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic schievement in connection with military

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operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944 in the vicinity of , Belgium. A tank destroyer of which Private Bragg was cannoneer was subjected to enemy artillery white phosphorous shells and small arms fire. Without thought for personal afety, Private Bragg and gun crew observed enemy movements and brought such accurate fire on enemy tanks and supporting infantry, five tanks were destroyed and a number of infantrymen killed and wounded. Private Bragg's devotion to duty and courage were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Maryland. (GO 78, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 3 Apr 45)

Private George H Brower, 33418425, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944 in the vicinity of Belgium. A tank destroyer of which Private Brower was cannoneer was subjected to enemy artillery white phosphorous shells and small arms fire. Without thought for personal safety, Private Brower and gun crew observed enemy movements and brought such accurate fire on enemy tanks and supporting infantry, five tanks were destroyed and a number of infantrymen killed and wounded. Private Brower's devotion to duty and courage were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania. (GO 78, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 3 Apr 45)

Private First Class John P Grimeldi, 31211042, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944 in the wichnity of . Belgium. A tank destroyer of which Private Grimaldi was cannoneer was subjected to enemy artillery white phosphorous shells and small arms fire. Without thought for personal safety, Private Grimaldi and gun crew observed enemy movements and brought such accurate fire on enemy tanks and supporting infantry, five tanks were destroyed and a number of infantrymen killed and wounded. Private Grimaldi's devotion to duty and courage were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Massachusetts. (GO 78, Hq 8th MDiv, dtd 3 Apr 45)

Private First Class Dennis A Hebert, Jr, (then Private), 38651888, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944 in the vicinity of Belgium. A tank destroyer of which Private Hebert was cannoneer

Beigium. A tank destroyer of which Private Hebert was cannoneer was subjected to enemy artillery white phosphorous shells and small arms fire. Without thought for personal safety, Private Hebert and gun crew observed enemy movements and brought such accurate fire on enemy tanks and supporting infantry, five tanks were destroyed and a number of infantrymen killed and wounded, Private Hebert's devotion to duty and courage were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Louisiana. (GO 78, Hq oth Inf Div, dtd 3 Apr 45)

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Sergeant William R Hooper, (then Technician Fifth Grade), 34135364, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C. 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with

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Private First Class Edward J Kummer, 33475507, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17nDecember 1944 in the vicinity of . Belgium. A tank destroyer of which Private Kummer was cannoneer was subjected to enemy artillery white phosphorous shells and small arms fire. Without thought for personal safety, Private Kummer and gun crew observed enemy movements and brought such accurate fire on enemy tanks and supporting infantry, five tanks were destroyed and a number of infantrymen killed and wounded. Private Kummer's devotion to duty and courage were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennslvania. (GO 78, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 3 Apr 45)

Corporal Henry J McVeigh, (then Private), 31292267, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement against the enemy on 17 December 1944 and 19 December 1944 in the vicinity of Belgium. On 17 December, Corporal McVeigh, a gunner on an M-10 tank destroyer, delivered such effective fire on an enemy force of 10 tanks and accompanying infantry that the enemy was forced to abandon their attack and withdraw leaving two Mark IV and two Mark V tanks and one half-track personnel carrier destroyed. On 19 December, holding his fire on an approaching column of 12 Mark V tanks until the lead tank was but a hundred yards from him, he destroyed the leading tank forcing the remaining tanks to withdraw. His gallant courage and devotion to duty were directly responsible for failure of the enemy attacks. Entered the military service from Rhode Island. (GO 78, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 3 Apr 45)

Corporal George S Oswald, (then Private First Class), 33485248, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), 644th Tank Destroyer, Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military, operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944 in the vicinity of , Belgium. A tank destroyer of which Corporal Oswald was gunner was subjected to enemy artillery white phosphorous shells and small arms fire. Without thought for personal safety, Corporal Oswald and cannon crew brought such accurate fire on enemy tanks and supporting infantry, five tanks were destroyed and a number of infantrymen killed and wounded. Carporal Oswald's devotion to duty and courage were in accordance with the bighest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania. (GO 78, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 3 Apr 45)

First Lieutenant Owen R McDermott, 0886903, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 February 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. Although wounded, Lieutenant McDermott advanced on foot ahead of attacking infantrymen to insure the safe

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passage of his tank destroyers through the woods. His fearless action aided materially in the successful accomplishment of the battalion's mission. Entered the military service from New York.

Staff Sergeant Tracy L Butler, 36044817, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 26 February 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. When a second attack was driven back by the enemy, Sergeant Butler moved his tank destroyer forward and returned fire on an enemy assault gun, forcing it to withdraw. His great courage and devotion to duty enabled infantrymen to attain their objective. Entered the military service from Illinois. (GO 91, Hq Sth Inf Div, dtd 16 Apr 45)

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k. Photographs: Attached.

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For the Commanding Officer:

HARLOW F LENON Captain, FA 5-2

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MEDICAL DETACHMENT 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

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APO 230, US Army 2 May 1945

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CASUALTY REPORT (April)

			A CONTRACTOR OF			
Name	Ce	Diagnosis	Date	Disposition	Bemarks	
Albert Chicano S/Sgt 20235625	c	WIA Shell W (rocket)	1 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty	
Joseph J Sweeney Cpl 33475924	B	WIA Shell V (HE) LW, rt buttock, back	24 Mar	Duty	Battle Casualty	
Attilio R DiCesare T/4 32057884	B	KIA	30 Mar	8 2	Battle Casualty	
Herman L Lopez T/5 34153387	c	Conjunctivitis, 1t	31 Mar D 6 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Disease	
Hellis Couch Pfc 34584472	C	External injury, LW rt hand, caused by dog bite	1 Apr	8 Clr Sta	NB Inj	
George S Nosral Sgt 32057838		WIA Shell W (HE) CW, lt eide	1 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty	
Robert R Galley T/4 35464237		WIA Shell W (HE) CW, lt eide	l Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty	
Walter L Fulmer 5/Sgt 32066760	Ħq	Impetigo, scalp & RTD rt hand RTD	2 Apr 23 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Disease	
Henry P Muts S/Sgt 20234664	C	Crush Injury, 1t hip & addominal reg., pos perf intestines	2 Apr	8 Clr Sta	NB Inj	
Villiam M Patton 1st Lt 01824358	c	WIA GSW (W.G.) Pen W, forehead, rt frontal	2 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty	
Victor G Walters Pfo 11083951	c	WIA GSW (M.G.) Pen W, rt leg	2 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty	
Thomas P Capito Pfc 33408100	C	WIA GSW (M.G.) Pen W, rt arm	2 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty	
Michael D Arndt 1/5 39271938	c	wIA Burn, 1 deg about face, burn, 2 deg, botn manda	2 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty	
Richard T Moore 2d Lt 0934302	C	<u>KIA</u>	2 Apr	6 - - 1	Battle Casualty	
Kenneth G Todd Sgt 33417122	C	KIA	2 Apr	•	Battle Casualty	
Glenn A Walker 1/5 39405550	c	KIA	2 Ap1	5 - S	Battle Casualty	
Robert Cimine Pfg 32690069	C	KIA	2 Ap	9 Q (Battle Casualty	
John E Clifton Pfo 16111512		KIA	2 Ap	•	Battle Casualty	
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	<u>News</u>	6	viagnosis	Date	Dispositie	n Bemarks
	Samuel H Hunt Pfo 36416430	Ċ	VIA Shell W (rook	et) 2	Apr Duty	Battle Casualty
	Nelvin L Lewis T/4 33547683	1	LW, rt hand, stru	CIE 3 A	pr 8 Clr St	a HB Inj
	Emory L Ellis Sgt 15071226	c	LW lt ring finger acc inc when his finger got caught in breech		r 8 Clr Ste	NB Inj
÷	Eric J Bandelin Pfo 33614764	c	Shell W (HE) abrasion, back of both calfs of legs	3 Ар	r Duty	Battle Casualty
×	Everett H Oppel T/5 32113981	Hen	WIA Shell W (Baz.) CW, rt leg, mee region) 4 Apz	Duty	Battle Casualty
	Dominick Carpenon Cpl 32004772	na C	SIW GSW (carb.) LW, lt index finger	4 Арт	8 Clr Sta	WB Inj
~	Martin Rhodeside Pfc 33415726	В	WIA Shell W (HE) CW, rt foot, sv B	5 Apr TD 25 A	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
	Edward M Carey	* *	SIW Pen W, foot, caused by acc discharge of rifle		8 Clr Sta	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	Patrick J O'Conno Pfc 32003896	r B	WIA Shell W (HE) LW, it thumb	6 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
	Monroe S Klock Cpl 33105333	Ren	Fainting spells, poss ov RTD	7 Apr 25 Apr	8 Clr Sta	1
	Samuel L Higgenbo T/4 35214635	tham	Hq Foreign body, cornes, rt eye	7 Apr	8 Cly Sta	NB INJ
	Miles B Hipp Sgt 34058784	C	WIA Shell W (HE) LW, rt buttock	7 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
~	Samuel H Ray Pvt 35619134	c	Dimentia Praecox	8 Apr	8 Clr Sta	
÷	Francis B Cox T/5 33082609	C	Acid burns of face & eyes, caused by battery explosion	8 Apr	45 8 Clr Sta	NB Inj
	Amos E Coty Pro 31322254	Ron	WIA GSW (rifle) LW, lt arm	8 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
	Robert A Parker lat Lt 01823478		WIA Shell W (mortar) LW, rt side & baok	8 Apr		Battle Casualty
	William J McNeil Cpl 33476076		<u>KIA</u> .	9 Apr		Battle Casualty
1	Henry A Bragg Pro 33723553	C	SIW GSW (pistol) Pen W lt hand	9 Apr	Start and a	NB Inj

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	Name	C	Diagnosis	Date	Dispositi	on Benerks
	Rey L Spencer Pfc 36630769		WIA Bomb W (mine) LW,		r Duty	Battle Casualty
	Gerald R Vallee Cpl 31267952	C	WIA Shell W (HE) LW, head	10 Ap	r Duty	Battle Cesualty
	Joseph F Nerney Cpl 32046625	٨	WIA	11 Ap	r 311 Clr	and the second se
	Emanuel Solomon 2d Lt, 01999805		WIA Shell W (HE) LW, back	11 Ap	r Duty	Battle Casualty
	Robert W Huffman Pfc 33439739	B	U.R.I.	11 Ap:	r 8 Clr	Disease
	Jack W Taylor 1/5 34180306	Ren	VIA Bomb V (grenade) Pen V, 1t leg	11 Ap:	r Duty	Battle Casualty
	John Husak Pfc 33115730	Ron	WIA Bomb W (grenade) Pen W, 1t hand & wrist	11 Ap1	r Duty	Battle Casualty
	Loyal L Polston T/5 20940689	Med	CW, shoulder, back, leg poss inj. to spine	12 Apr	8 Clr Sta	
	Carl H E Nelson 1/5 39133257	c	CW, rt & 1t ankles, poss FS	12 Apr	8 Clr Sta	WB Inj
	George W Murray 1/5 34003601		LW, face, sl	12 Apr	C 227	WB Inj
	Clyde E Matney T/5 37158297	B	WIA Shell W (mortar) Pen W, rt forearm	12 Apr		Battle Casualty
	Cipriano C Mongar Pfc 35140426	A.5	C Poss. dislocation of rt ankle joints	13 Apr		NB Inj
	Howard W Henry Pfc 33129498	B	WIA Burns (phos.) 1st deg, rt arm	13 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
	Theodore A Jett T/5 3391356	B	WIA Burns (phos.) 1st deg, 1t hand	13 Apr	Duty 1	Battle
	Sgt 33418153	B		13 Apr	- 1	Battle Casualty
	-AT 15103043		VIA Shell W (HE) MW bac & rt arm	13 Apr	8 Clr H	attle asualty
	Raymond DelCastell Pro 39034851	Lo 1	B WIA Shell W (mortar) LW, lt shoulder	13 Apr	8 Clr B	attle asualty
	Alfred J Lioi S/Sgt 32003767	B 1	IA Shell V (HE) LV, Lt arm upper 3rd	13 Apr		attle
	Harvey W Moyer Pfg 33475954	C 1	Diarrhea, acute RTD	13 Apr 17 Apr	8 Clr D	100 850
	Charles A Gravener Pfo 32066725	C	Diarrhea, acute	13 Apr 17 Apr	8 C1 - D	isease
	Thomas B Logan T/5 37047615	CU	enter data de la composición de la comp	14 Apr		

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Name	Ce	Diagnosis	Date	aposition	Remarks
Bernard Heisman T/5 33476149	Ron	KIA	14 Apr		Battle Casualty
Villiam E Puesol Pvt 36691415	1 H	WIA Shell W (HE) LW, lt buttock	14 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
Report E Jeffery Sgt 36450472	A	WIA GSW (M.G.) LW, face, sl	14 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
Harry E Reeves Pvt 36694551	Ron	KIA	14 Apr	- 2 11	Battle Casualty
Donald W Schaffe Pvt 33690314	r Ro	m <u>KIA</u>	14 Apr	•	Battle Casualty
Justice Long Pvt 33418376	Bon	WIA Shell W (HE) FC lt leg	15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
John R Allender Sgt 39271917	B	WIA Shell W (HE) LW, rt lower leg, LW lt lower leg	15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
Samuel Goodman Pfc 33594484	Ren	Poss. dislocation of it ankle RTD	15 Apr 15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	NB Inj
Angelo Macagliot Sgt 32114345	ta B	WIA Shell W (HE) Mult Pen W thumb & 1, 2, & 3rd fi lt hand, Pen W buttocks	1.	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
Joseph A DeRosa Cpl 32003896	В	WIA Shell W (HE) MLW, rt buttock MPW, rt thigh & knee, poss FC rt knee	15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
Patrick J O'Conn Pfc 32003896	or B	WIA Shell W (HE) MPW, chin & top of head, concuss:	1.11	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
James Stafford Pvt 33476072		WIA Shell W (HE) Part amput of it leg, FC it femur	15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
David M Tinsley T/4 38150442	3	WIA Shell W (HE) Pen W, neok, rt poss rupture of sardrums	15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
Nicholas Zok Pvt 51036124	C.	Alcoholism, acute	15 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Disease
Wesley M Durham Sgt 20236860		MIA Shell W (HE) Pen W, rt buttock	15 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
Leslie P McDougal Capz 01170855	LC	WIA Shell W (HE) LW, 2, 3, & 4th fing, 1t hand	15 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
Woodrow A Lasroe Sgt 32183295	B <u>B</u>		16 APT	•	Battle Casualty
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r	Name	C	Diagnosis	Date	Disposit	10n Bemarks
	Doneld V Tobin T/5 37269031	B	VIA	16 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Battle Casualty
	Henry P Cota Pfc 39117541	В	WIA concussion (shell blast) shock	16 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
	Bernard Ises Cpl 33475970	B	IA Shell W (HE) , face rt & head	16 Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
	Ralph G Mitch Pvt 32683976	B	WIA Shell W (HE LW, face, rt) 16 Ap	r Duty	Battle Casualty
3	Edward Etzel Pvt 42083581	C	rt poss FS fell	16 Apr	8 Clr Sta	and the second s
	Eston R F Jordan S/Sgt 34058843	B	off N-10 PS, midale finge	r 16 A	pr 8 Clr S	ta NB Inj
	Quentin M Kelly let Lt 01999155	B	WIA concussion (mine blast) punctured rt eardrum	lb Apr	Duty	Battle Casualty
	Fulton S Charlie Pfc 33096561	Hq	Rheumatic Fever RTD	19 Apr 25 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Disease
S)	Truman O Burdin Pfc 34052677	Ron	Pen W, rt	20 Apr	322 Clr	NB Inj
			thigh lower 3rd, poss FC femur, rt thigh			
	Charles M Robbins Sgt 38416689	on	C Possible appendicitis	21 Apr	8 Clr Sta	bisease
	Walter M Slawsky Pvt 33061637	C	Hemorroids, external	22 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Disease
	Roy ♥ Jackson ¶/3 37129332	Med	Un-united fracture, mavigular bone, lt wrist	24 Apr	8 Clr Sta	NB Inj
	Frederick T Esper T/4 32003839	B	Urethritis (?)	26 Apr	8 Clr Sta	Disease
1	Alec J. Huffman Pfo 34153545		Abacessed tooth	27 Apr	319 Clr	Disease
	Quentin M Kelly lst Lt 01999755		Otitis Media, punctured rt eardrum	30 Apr	640 Clr	Disease

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NATHANIEL BERG Captain, MC Surgeon

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