

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 644th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 230 U S Army

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Period 1 August 1944 Through 31 August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General  
War Department  
Washington 25, D. C.  
(Thru Channels)

The following is a history of this organization for the month of August 1944, submitted in accordance with AR 345-105, dtd 9 Mar 43:

- a. Unit - No change.
- b. Changes in Organization - No change.
- c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) At beginning of Period:

Officers	35
Warrant Officer	1
Enlisted Men	613

(2) Net Increase for Month:

Officers	0
Warrant Officer	0
Enlisted Men	0

(3) Net Decrease for Month:

Officers	1
Warrant Officer	0
Enlisted Men	12

(4) At End of Period:

Officers	34
Warrant Officer	1
Enlisted Men	601

- d. Stations of Unit or Parts Thereof:

Station: BOUREY, FRANCE

At beginning of period.  
Date of departure: 2 August 1944.

LE LUOT, FRANCE

Date of arrival: 2 August 1944.  
Date of departure: 4 August 1944.

ERC PRES LIFRE, FRANCE

Date of arrival: 4 August 1944.  
Date of departure: 7 August 1944.

RENNES, FRANCE (2 miles northeast)

Date of arrival: 7 August 1944.  
Date of departure: 14 August 1944.

PLUMAUDAN, FRANCE

Date of arrival: 14 August 1944.  
Date of departure: 14 August 1944.

ST DIVY, FRANCE

Date of arrival: 18 August 1944.  
Date of departure: 19 August 1944.

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**KERNILIS, FRANCE**

Date of arrival: 19 August 1944.  
Date of departure: 27 August 1944.

**BOURG BLANC, FRANCE**

Date of arrival: 27 August 1944.  
Date of departure: To end of period.

**e. Marches.**

- (1) Purpose: Marches made to include 7 August 1944 were made to keep in contact with the enemy, made necessary because of their rapid retreat. On the 8th of August, Company "C" moved to the north for the attack on DINARD. March on 13th August was made to assemble for the march to BREST, FRANCE. On the 14th of August, the Battalion moved to the COTENTIN Peninsula to participate in the reduction of the city of BREST.

- (2) Length of Daily March: Approximately sixty (60) miles.

- (3) Points between which marched, with date:  
The 644 TD BN moved via FOLLIGNY, LA HAYE PESNEL, to a position in the vicinity of BOURREY (LE LUOT), FRANCE on 2 August 1944.

On 4 August Bn CP traveled by road via AVIGNACHES, PONTAUDAUT, and closed in a position south of ST JAMES at (044400).

On 4 August the Bn, traveling via FOUGERES, ROMAGNE, ST AUBIN, du CORMIER arrived at its destination at 1900 hours and closed one (1) mile west of ERC PRES LIPPRE.

The Bn remained at ESC PRES LIPPRE, until the 7 August when it traveled via LIPPRE to a location two (2) miles northwest of RENNES.

On 13 August the Bn moved via RENNES, ST GILLES, REEDE, MONTAUBIN de BRETAGNE, QUEDILLAC, and CAULNES to a new destination 3/4 of a mile northwest of PLAUMAUDIN.

On 14 August the Bn began its march to BREST traveling via YVIGNAC, MIRBAL, BROONS, LAMBALLE, YFFINIAC, bypassing ST BRIEUC to CHATEAU-LAUDREN, QUINCAMP, BELLE ISLE en TERRE, PLONIGNEAU, MORLAIX, LOUVORN, BANDIVISIAU and LANDERNEAU, closing one (1) mile southeast of ST DIVY.

On 19 August 44 the Bn moved via KERAMEZEC, and PLOUDANTEL to a bivouac in the vicinity of KERNILLIS.

On 27 August the Bn traveled the road LANNILIS BOURG BLANC and closed a new station, bivouacking just outside the town. Remained here until the end of period.

- (4) Majority of moves were made on main roads and improved highways under good conditions. Weather was warm with occasional showers.
- (5) Remarks: Marches were made without incident, with one exception. During the march to BREST one (1) Company "B" M-10 had to halt because of overheated motor and two (2) bogey-wheels were blown. Company was ordered to reduce speed.

**f. Campaigns: NORTHERN FRANCE**

**G. BATTLES**

**I. The Normandy Breakthrough: 15 July to 4 August 1944.**

**a. The enemy.**

1. See Battalion history period 1 July 1944 to 31 July 1944.
2. Enemy defenses; consisting mostly of trenches and some fortifications (pillboxes) in cities, were abandoned when position became untenable after the breakthrough. Many mines were used

during withdrawal to slow our advances.

Bridges were prepared for demolition but in most cases found intact or already repaired by Engineers.

3. Disposition of enemy units were unknown at this time. No counter-attacks were made.

Use of air, armor and artillery was slight and none was destroyed during the period by this Battalion.

4. Number of prisoners of war: two (2) officers and eleven (11) enlisted men

(b) Elements Affecting Action:

1. Enemy information was at a minimum. Rcn held to rear guard patrols.
2. Civilians had been evacuated prior to operations in this sector.
3. Nature of Terrain: See Battalion History (July 44)

(c) Action:

1. Battalion assigned to THIRD ARMY, attached to 8TH INF DIV ARTY after 1 August 1944. Battalion CP located vicinity LES FOSES (317216).

Supporting Units: None

Companies further assigned to Regiments and Battalions of the Division.

2. MISSION: Battalion advanced to the south with the leading forces of the Division with missions of repelling any enemy armored attack on the city of RENNES.

Company "A" attached to CT 13 performing security missions to the forward area of DIVISION sector.

Balance of Battalion was under Battalion control.

Company "B" furnished Battalion rear-guard.

Company "C" advance-guard.

Rcn Co left-flank guard during movement to RENNES.

THE NORMANDY BREAKTHROUGH (Cont'd)

From August 1 through August 4, the Battalion moved south from BOUREY, FRANCE through AVANCHES, and FOUGERES to RENNES. Enemy equipment was scattered along the road in many places consisting mostly of un-armored vehicles, prime movers and towed guns. Company "A" performed security missions for CT 13 which made few contacts except for scattered pockets of resistance. The Battalion made the entire move with the 8th Infantry Division.

3. Special weapons used: None. Communications were excellent.
4. Assistance from supporting artillery: None. Engineers cleared roads and marked mine fields.
5. No flame throwers, grenades, or other close in weapons were employed.
6. Supplies were adequate and no evacuation necessary.
7. Casualties: See attached casualty list.

h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:

- (1) The Normandy Breakthrough: 15 July to 4 August 1944

CO 644 TD Bn - Lt Col Ephraim F Graham, Jr.  
 CO Hq Co 644 TD Bn - Capt James M Carpenter  
 CO Co "A" 644 TD Bn - Capt Henry A Garton, Jr.  
 CO Co "B" 644 TD Bn - Capt Carl H Wiggenhorn  
 CO Co "C" 644 TD Bn - Capt Klaus B Geforas  
 CO Co Rcn 644 TD Bn - Capt Nelson C Works, Jr.  
 Medical Detachment - Capt Nathaniel Berg

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1. Losses in Action:

See attached casualty list.

II The Defense of RENNES: 4 August to 13 August 44

(a) The Enemy:

1. At the beginning of the period, pockets of enemy resistance continued in DIVISION forward section and to south west of our position.

Enemy amalgamated for organized resistance. One (1) Panzer Division reported in the vicinity of RENNES.

On the 7 August 44 the 4TH ARMORED DIVISION plus the I & R platoon of the 2nd Bn, 13th INF Regt were located at MESSAC, engaged enemy forces estimated at twelve hundred (1200).

Enemy withdrew from vicinity of BOURG DES COMPTES and MESSAC at 1900 hours 5 August 44. Battalion reconnaissance also disclosed FORAT DE TILLEY to be unoccupied by enemy. On 8 August the enemy continued to resist at ST MALO and had recaptured MORTAIN, but later lost the town, after aircraft destroyed 135 enemy tanks of the 4TH Panzer Division.

No special weapons were used.

Morale was considered poor

2. Enemy defenses were considered strong and in depth. The city of RENNES was fortified by a perimeter defense against possible tank attacks by our forces and included mines, anti-tank ditches and heavy AT weapons in large quantities.
3. Reconnaissance and FFI reports indicated a possible concentration of the 1st Panzer Division and 2nd Inf Division in NANTES, with possible employment against LAVAL, RENNES and the 4th Armored Divisions lines of communication. The 644 TD Bn, in conjunction with the 8th Inf Div, anticipated enemy attacks on RENNES from the south.

Use of enemy air negligible. Short harrassing flights were made by a few planes from the air strip at RENNES against forward troops, and fighters, bombed and strafed convoys caught on road. No armor was encountered by Bn. Enemy artillery was on the move and inactive, except for that used in AT role to defend RENNES.

No armor or artillery destroyed.

4. Four (4) enlisted men were captured by Bn in this phase of operations

(b) Elements Affecting Action:

1. Enemy information was at a minimum due to withdrawal of troops. Recon was confined to air and rear-guard patrols.
2. FFI was helpful in pin-pointing targets, disclosing whereabouts of enemy troops and in acting as guides.

Civilian population in general was helpful to the extreme; many reports being based on rumor and conjecture, leading to unnecessary investigation in some instances.

3. The terrain was heavily wooded and broadened out into a plain in the vicinity of RENNES. Hedgerows were less prominent and not as thick.
4. Enemy's perimeter defense limited maneuver and confined operations to frontal assault.

(c) Action:

1. 644 TD Bn assigned 3RD ARMY and attached to 8TH INF DIV ARTY, (CP Bn 056561)

Supporting Units: None

2. Mission: Battalion minus Co "C" had mission to repel and enemy armored attack in the DIV Sector in the city of RENNES.

Co "A" in direct support of 13TH INF REGT, moved to CAPE FRENCH

Co "B" in direct support of 28TH INF REGT. Co "B" raid on 9 August. Performed indirect fire mission under DIVARTY.

DEFENSE OF RENNES

The first major stop after the breakthrough of Normandy for the Battalion occurred at RENNES. This city, originally thought to be strongly defended, fell with little activity with the exception of AA defenses by the enemy northwest of Rennes, who used their AA guns well emplaced as anti-tank guns. The CO of Company "A", attached to CT 13, reported that he was the first American to enter RENNES on August 4th.

During the period August 4 through the 13th, Reconnaissance Company was actively engaged on missions covering a ten mile radius of the city of RENNES. They also performed three Division reconnaissance missions to the south and east. The firing companies (-2nd Platoon, Company "A") were held in readiness to repel anticipated tank attacks from the south and west. The 2nd Platoon of Company "A" was attached to Task Force Spartan which performed missions of mopping up small pockets of resistance south of RENNES. Company "C" was diverted from its defensive position on August 8 and attached to 121 Infantry for the attack on DINARD.

- 3. No special weapons were used. Communications were excellent.
- 4. Supporting artillery harassed enemy withdrawal.  
Engineers cleared roads, marked mine fields and filled craters in roads and repaired bridges destroyed by the enemy.
- 5. No grenades, flame throwers or use of bayonet and other close in weapons were employed by the Battalion.
- 6. Supply was adequate and evacuation sufficient but not used due to lack of casualties to end of this phase.
- 7. Casualties: See attached casualty list.

III DINARD OFFENSIVE (Company "C" only) 8 August to 15 August 44

(a) The enemy

- 1. G-2 estimated 1500 to 5000 enemy troops occupying DINARD and positions to the south. Front lines generally: Coor: (700080) (755071) (795065). The enemy was well prepared, dug in and fortified.

Special weapons consisted only of heavy artillery and Naval Guns.

Morale was considered to be poor

- 2. Enemy defenses consisted of trench systems, mine fields, cleared areas offering fields of fire which had been staked against airborne landings by gliders. These defenses also included pill boxes and concrete forts. Mines and demolitions were used to a great extent.
- 3. Enemy operated as front line infantry using all types of personnel from all branches of the service. Self propelled guns were used in direct support of these troops. No enemy air support was available to the enemy. Five (5) to seven (7) medium or light tanks reported in PLEURTUIT possibly SP guns.

Artillery moderate, coast guns and SP guns used.

Infantry counter attack broken on two occasions by TDs. During this phase of action the following enemy armor was destroyed:

- 1 SP 88
- 1 SP 75
- 1 PZKW IV

In addition the followign was destroyed

- 2 Mortar positions
- 12 Pillboxes
- 3 Vehicles (1 probable)
- 1 MG emplacement

2 20mm Gun (AA)  
 1 Radio Control Station  
 1 C.D.  
 1 Ammo Dump  
 1 CP (Church Steeple at LEMINIHC)

4. No prisoners were taken during period by Battalion

(b) Elements affecting action

1. Enemy information was slight. Open area between towns and front lines limited patrolling. Little reconnaissance made.
2. Civilians had cleared and had been evacuated prior to hostilities and therefore had no effect on action.
3. Nature of terrain. Hilly and heavily wooded. Ground in front of objective had been cleared for at least 1000 yards to afford clear field of fire and had been staked with (Rommsle asparagus) against glider attacks.

(c) Action

1. Bn Hq attached to the 8TH INF DIV DIVARTY - (CP location 686839)  
 Co "C" attached to 121 INF REGT from 8 August to 16 August.  
 CP located (767-932)  
 Co "A" attached to 1ST BN 28 INF REGT moved to CAPE FREICL for attack in that objective and took the point on 15 August when its Cadr capitulated.
2. Mission: To act in direct support of Infantry in the reduction of DINARD.

THE DINARD OFFENSIVE

Co "C" of the 644th TD Bn, acting in direct support of the 121st Inf Regt, from 8 August 1944 to 15 August 1944, helped smash two (2) counter-attacks by enemy infantry, during its mission in the reduction of DINARD.

The 2nd Platoon was with the right flank of the infantry Bn on the right and the 3rd Platoon was with the left flank Bn. The 1st Platoon was held in reserve. On 9 August the TD Platoons remained in cover positions until the Infantry designated targets, usually emplacements or tanks. Mortar and 80mm artillery fire was received, and some small arms fire. There was no counter-battery, and we fired at least 20 rounds to the enemies one.

On Friday, 11 August 1944, the 3rd Platoon was called on to support an Infantry Company pinned down by enemy MG and Mortar fire 100 yards north of THEMREUC, FRANCE. One section with the Platoon Leader in command, moved into a position and fired eighty-two rounds of 3" H.E. at targets of opportunity. This firing took place at 1700. At 2130, same place, same day, the enemy launched a counter-attack. The Infantry Company again called for the 3rd Platoon. With fifty-five rounds of H.E. fired into the enemy line, the counter-attack was beaten off.

On Saturday, 12 August 1944, 1800 Southeast of PLEURTUIT, the 3rd Platoon flanked the same Infantry Company on their left. The Infantry was still pinned down by heavy mortar and 88mm fire. It was necessary that the M-10's move across open terrain to face the front of the enemy lines. One M-10 overrunning a line of pillboxes, causing 168 German prisoners to be taken.

The following day the same platoon destroyed a 20 man anti-aircraft emplacement and a radio control station with 17 rounds of H.E. Prisoners were taken from one of the demolished pillboxes. The Platoon advanced from the north of PLEURTUIT to south of DINARD in the face of little opposition. Assisted by the Infantry Company, 200 more prisoners were taken that day.

On the 13th of August 1944, the 2nd Platoon of Co "C" relieved another platoon attached to 2nd Bn, 121st Infantry at 2016. At

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1500 a destroyer was hit by 88mm causing slight damage to vehicle. There were no casualties. The Platoon moved forward with the Infantry and destroyed a 20mm gun with 3" shell located at 765085. The hedges were sprayed with .50 calibre fire because of snipers harassing troops.

The 3rd Platoon was the first Tank Destroyer Unit to enter DINARD. That was on the 14th of August 1944. Co "A" of the 121st Infantry, pinned down by MG fire at the DINARD railroad station, requested the support of the 3rd TD Platoon. One destroyer swung its gun facing an officer while the destroyer occupants took 55 prisoners. The final action of the 3rd Platoon was to fire 10 rounds of H.E. and 10 rounds of A.P. at German fortifications northeast of DINARD on an island. There was no observation so that damage might have been estimated. Credit for the breakthrough of the 121st Infantry was given the 3rd Platoon by the CO of that unit.

On 14 August 1944, the 2nd Platoon moved forward with the Infantry at 0930 at 761094 in support of tanks as the tanks advanced through the streets. TDs covered the side streets at point 764128. The 2nd Platoon covered the town on 15 August 1944 until the Peninsula surrendered at 1100 and all enemy resistance ceased.

3. No special weapons other than naval guns were used by enemy. Allied air sprayed Citadel at DINARD with fuel by dropping auxiliary gas tanks and fired tracers into them to create fire and explosion.

Communications: Worked with infantry using special radio setup. Constant liaison maintained with infantry.

4. Supporting artillery fired neutralisation, harassing and preparation fires.

On one occasion smoke was called for to cover movement of TDs but was not obtained.

5. APC BDF and APC ammo was used with good effect against pillboxes followed by HE after penetration.
6. Supply was good. Evacuation difficult due to enemy fire.
7. Casualties: (see attached casualty list)

(h) Commanding Officers in important engagements

1. Co "C", Capt Elmer B Goforos

IV BREST OFFENSIVE - 13 August to 31 August 44

(a) The enemy

1. G-2 estimates placed number of enemy troops defending the FORTRESS CITY of BREST, at approximately 40,000 troops. Fortress commanded by General RAMCKE.
2. The enemy was firmly entrenched on the best suitable ground, backed up by all types of artillery to include rockets and coast defense guns with a 360 degree traverse. Enemy defenses were well prepared and included mines, both AT and personnel, booby traps, concrete emplacements, anti-tank ditches and pits, underground storage vaults, barracks and submarine pens. The old city wall of BREST had been modernized, strengthened, spotted with pill boxes and MGs and surrounded by an anti-tank ditch and minefield. The city was considered impregnable.
3. The garrison of BREST was composed of troops of all branches of the service who had retreated to the Fortress City after the ST LO breakthrough. This force was composed of GMP, submarine crews, Naval, SS, and paratroopers who had boasted they could hold out for six (6) months. Counter-attacks on a reduced scale were made and enemy fought tenaciously for every foot of ground.

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Enemy air was inactive. Enemy use of armor: None.  
Artillery was confined to front line troops with little or no harassing fire.

4. Prisoners: 2 officers and 87 Enlisted Men.

(b) Elements Affecting Action:

1. Enemy information was slight, gathered mainly from PWs. Recon was held to patrol action on a limited scale. Perimeter defense of city and short defense line was to enemies advantage and limited our attack to frontal assault and house to house fighting.
2. Majority of the civilian population had been evacuated prior to action. Civilian information was vital and in detail in some instances. Many had first hand knowledge of defenses, pillboxes, etc.
3. Terrain was open with good field of fire and observation, hilly in spots and gradually rolling. Enemy fortified and defended high ground.

(c) Actions:

1. Hq 644 TD Bn assigned to 3RD ARMY attached 8 INF DIV ARTY. CP location coord (118046)  
Companies further attached to REOT.  
Co "A" with Task Force attached 1ST Bn 28 INF REOT 12 Aug 44 - 18 August 44 for reduction of CAPE FREHOL
2. Mission: To give all available support to its attack on BREST.

THE BREST OFFENSIVE

The unit after leaving RENNES and arriving at LESNEVEN, France on 18 August 1944 began its preparation for the attack on BREST which started August 25. During this period, Reconnaissance Company had the mission of reconnoitering the 8TH INF DIV's right flank. While in performance of this mission on August 19, this reconnaissance element encountered a German patrol which attacked our patrol. A fire fight immediately developed in which the attack was successfully repulsed. When the attack began, the Bn was separated; Co "A" was with the 29TH INF DIV, Co "B" was attached to the 13TH INF and Co "C" to the 121ST INF. Co "A" was employed in close support of the infantry and engaged targets of opportunity in direct fire.

On the 28th of August, one platoon of Co "A", giving close support to the 29TH DIV's Ranger Task Force, near TREZIEK, FRANCE gave valuable assistance to the Task Force in its destruction of enemy personnel and equipment. Another platoon in close support of two Ranger Companies and the 224th Field Artillery aided materially in neutralizing stubborn enemy resistance and destroying several enemy guns at PLOUNQUER, FRANCE.

Co "B" was in direct support of the 13TH INF in its attack on "Hill 88" on August 25th. From dug-in positions, a total of 1200 rounds of HE ammunition was fired on targets of opportunity on this hill. Following this action the Co moved to direct firing position along the main line of resistance. Here, counter-attack after counter-attack was repulsed with the 3" guns of the Unit and Cal .50 MGs atop the destroyers. Many pillboxes, machine gun positions and enemy personnel were destroyed.

Co "C" actively supported the 28TH INF in its drive on BREST - giving direct fire on targets of opportunity pointed out by the infantry. One section was used at times on indirect fire missions.

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- 2 Incl.:  
Incl 1 - Losses in Action, Officers and Enlisted Men, and Former  
and Present Members who Have Distinguished Themselves  
In Action.  
Incl 2 - Photographs covering Period.

Month of August 1944

1. LOSSES IN ACTION - OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN

1. Engagements.

- a. Defense of Rennes
- b. Dinard Offensive
- c. Brest Offensive

2. Names.

a. Defense of Rennes:

None

b. Dinard Offensive:

Sgt John Mach, 32183598 (WIA)  
Sgt Irving I Burghdorf, 36125037 (KIA)  
Cpl Joseph J Skinner, 33418352 (KIA)  
Tec 5 Steve Stepanik, 33413615 (WIA)  
Pfc Ivan L Evernden, 39324133 (WIA)  
Pfc Naserio M Rodriguez, 38368733 (WIA)  
Pvt Carl W Notter, 33476104 (WIA)  
Pvt Maurice J Durkin, 33476170 (KIA)

c. Brest Offensive:

1st Lt PAUL R STEVENSON, 01823512 (Captured)

S/Sgt Thomas J Coyne, 32000188 (KIA)  
Sgt Arthur B Wolf, 32183628 (KIA)  
Cpl Woodrow A Lazroe, 32183295 (WIA)  
Cpl John V Page, 32182904 (WIA)  
Tec 5 John F DeCook, 36553515 (WIA)  
Pvt William J McNeill, 33476076 (WIA)  
Pvt Joseph J Sweeney, 33475924 (WIA)  
Pvt Daniel G Lafferts, 32182632 (WIA)

3. Killed in Action.

a. Defense of Rennes:

None

b. Dinard Offensive:

Three (3) Enlisted Men.

c. Brest Offensive:

Two (2) Enlisted Men.

4. Wounded in Action.

a. Defense of Rennes:

None

b. Dinard Offensive

Five (5) Enlisted Men.

c. Brest Offensive:

Six (6) Enlisted Men.

5. Missing in Action.

None

6. Taken Prisoner.

a. Defense of Rennes:

None.

b. Dinard Offensive:

None.

c. Brest Offensive:

One (1) officer.

J. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION

1. Engagement:

a. Defense of Rennes.

b. Dinard Offensive.

c. Brest Offensive.

2. Names:

a. None.

b. None.

c. 1st Lt JOSEPH J ENNEKING, 01823426

S/Sgt Thomas J Coyne, 32000188  
S/Sgt Robert W Grant, 20233323  
Cpl Vincent S Crivello, 39117660  
Tec 5 Daniel M Tinsley, 38150442  
Tec 5 James R Lee, 34058735  
Tec 5 Steve Eganina, 33104646  
Pvt Donald V Tobin, 37269031  
Pvt Michael P Espinoza, 39690644

3. Act:

a. None.

b. None.

c. First Lieutenant Joseph J. Enneking, 01823426, Field Artillery, Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25, 26 and 27 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*\* France. Lieutenant Enneking led his platoon in support of an infantry battalion in an attack on a strongly fortified enemy hill. Throughout the assault and during the three violent enemy counter-attacks which followed, his conduct under enemy fire exemplified by personal examples of courage and force so inspired his command that they not only beat off the attacks, but continued to assault until they had successfully supported the infantry attack to its final conclusion. Entered the military service from Kentucky.

HOFF -  
AWARDS  
JULY '44 TO APRIL '45

P/2 2/7/85

4. Awards.

a. None.

b. None.

c. Silver Star Medal- S/Sgt Thomas J Coyne

Bronze Star Medal- 1st Lt JOSEPH J ENNEKING  
S/Sgt Robert W Grant  
Cpl Vincent S Crivello  
Tec 5 Daniel M Tinsley  
Tec 5 James R Lee  
Tec 5 Steve Evanina  
Pvt Donald V Tobin  
Pvt Michael P Espinoza

Staff Sergeant Thomas J Coyne, 32000188, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer), Company A, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*\*, France. While moving forward in darkness in order to deliver supporting fire during an infantry attack, one destroyer of the platoon missed a turn and lost contact with the platoon. All efforts to contact the destroyer failed, and after the fire mission had been accomplished the platoon moved to a second supporting position. Having reached this new position, the crew of the lost destroyer appeared and reported that their destroyer had been caught in a tank trap and was being subjected to heavy enemy fire which had already wounded three members of the crew. Sergeant Coyne, although he realized the destroyer was in enemy-held territory, voluntarily led a patrol of four men in an attempt to recover the destroyer. While moving toward the scene the group was fired on by enemy troops and Sergeant Coyne was mortally wounded. His unselfish devotion to duty was an inspiration to his men. Entered the military service from New York.

Staff Sergeant Robert W Grant, (then Sergeant), 20233323, Field Artillery, (Armored Force), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 28 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*\*, France. Sergeant Grant led his section of tank destroyers over the only available route in full view of enemy emplacements. After leading them through intense enemy machine gun, mortar and anti-tank fire, he halted them and personally made a foot reconnaissance. Sergeant Grant then led the destroyers to a position from which the mission of knocking out a strong enemy machine gun emplacement was accomplished. Sergeant Grant's courage and devotion to duty enabled an infantry battalion to continue its attack. Entered the military service from New York.

Corporal Vincent S Crivello, 39117600, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25, 26 and 27 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*\*, France. With courage and tenacity Corporal Crivello remained at his post without food, rest or relief for three days and by inspiring devotion to duty contributed directly to the defeat of numerous enemy counter-attacks and the destruction of countless gun emplacements and machine gun nests. His actions during the engagement were a credit to himself, his organization and the military service. Entered the military service from California.

Technician Fifth grade Daniel M Tinsley, 38150442, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 and 26 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*\*, France. Without regard for his own safety Technician Fifth Grade Tinsley drove his vehicle in total blackout over an extremely hazardous route subject to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. Although the distance covered was 1000 yards, the removal of houses, cutting down of trees and the heavy enemy fire caused the move to require six hours. The next day Technician Fifth Grade Tinsley so skillfully maneuvered his vehicle that it was untouched by furious direct enemy fire. His tenacity and courage were an inspiration to his comrades. Entered the military service from Oklahoma.

Technician Fifth Grade James R Lee, 34058735, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 and 26 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*, France. Without regard for his own safety Technician Fifth Grade Lee drove his vehicle in total blackout over an extremely hazardous route subject to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. Although the distance covered was 1000 yards, the removal of houses, cutting down of trees and the heavy enemy fire caused the move to require six hours. The next day Technician Fifth Grade Lee so skillfully maneuvered his vehicle that it was untouched by furious direct enemy fire. His tenacity and courage were an inspiration to his comrades. Entered the military service from Florida.

Technician Fifth Grade Steve Evanina, 33104646, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 and 26 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*, France. Without regard for his own safety, Technician Fifth Grade Evanina drove his vehicle in total blackout over an extremely hazardous route subject to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. Although the distance covered was 1000 yards, the removal of houses, cutting down of trees and the heavy enemy fire caused the move to require six hours. The next day Technician Fifth Grade Evanina so skillfully maneuvered his vehicle that it was untouched by furious direct enemy fire. His tenacity and courage were an inspiration to his comrades. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Private Donald V Tobin, 37269031, Field Artillery (Tank Destroyer) Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 and 26 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*, France. Without regard for his own safety Private Tobin drove his vehicle in total blackout over an extremely hazardous route subject to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. Although the distance covered was 1000 yards, the removal of houses, cutting down of trees and the heavy enemy fire caused the move to require six hours. The next day Private Tobin so skillfully maneuvered his vehicle that it was untouched by furious direct enemy fire. His tenacity and courage were an inspiration to his comrades. Entered the military service from Minnesota.

Private Michael P Espinoza, 39690644, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 26 and 27 August 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*, France. When his platoon was cut off from supplies Private Espinoza repeatedly volunteered to traverse terrain exposed to heavy enemy fire to bring up badly needed water, food and ammunition. On several occasions he moved forward on foot to locate and report the positions of isolated infantry units, and was always the first to volunteer for patrol duty. By these actions, as well as his regular cannoneer duties, he was an inspiration to the of his platoon. Entered the military service from California.