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HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 230, US Army

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Period 1 March 1945 through 31 March 1945 Inclusive.

TO : The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, 25, D.C.

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 Organization - No change
- c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) At Beginning of Period:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Officers | 39 |
| Warrant Officers | 1 |
| Enlisted Men | 600 |

(2) Net Increase for Month:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Officers | 0 |
| Warrant Officers | 0 |
| Enlisted Men | 0 |

(3) Net Decrease for Month:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Officers | 5 |
| Warrant Officers | 0 |
| Enlisted Men | 6 |

(4) At end of Period:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Officers | 34 |
| Warrant Officers | 1 |
| Enlisted Men | 594 |

- d. Stations of Unit or Parts thereof:

Station: ESCHWEILER, Germany (184464)

At beginning of Period:
Date of Departure: 5 March 1945

KERPEN, Germany (266533)

Date of Arrival: 5 March 1945
Date of Departure: 6 March 1945

FRECHEN, Germany (358574)

Date of Arrival: 6 March 1945
Date of Departure: 9 March 1945

GOLDENBERG, Germany (373520)

Date of Arrival: 9 March 1945
Date of Departure: 11 March 1945

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KONIGSDORF, Germany (312601)

Date of Arrival: 11 March 1945
Date of Departure: 14 March 1945

ÖBER-LIBLA., Germany (365462)

Date of Arrival: 14 March 1945
Date of Departure: 16 March 1945

WALBERBURG, Germany (419443)

Date of Arrival: 16 March 1945
Date of Departure: 22 March 1945

MUNGENSDORF, Germany (396608)

Date of Arrival: 22 March 1945
Date of Departure: 29 March 1945

OBER HATTERT, Germany (026301)

Date of Arrival: 29 March 1945
To end of Period.

e. Marches:

(1) Purpose:

- (a) Marches were made in order to maintain close supply and administration with gun companies advancing to the RHINE. In the later part of the period the Battalion assembled in MUNGENSDORF and Gun companies were then assigned indirect fire missions from positions W of the RHINE.
- (b) On 29 March the Battalion crossed the RHINE to take active participation in the bridge-head area moving to a new Div sector with the 8th Inf Div.

(2) Length of Daily March:

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------|
| (a) | ESCHWEILER to KERPEN | 8 miles app. |
| (b) | KERPEN to FRECHEN | 7 miles app. |
| (c) | FRECHEN to GOLDENBURG | 6 miles app. |
| (d) | GOLDENBURG to KONIGSDORF | 11 miles app. |
| (e) | KONIGSDORF to OBER-LIBLA. | 13 miles app. |
| (f) | OBER-LIBLA. to WALBERBURG | 6 miles app. |
| (g) | WALBERBURG to MUNGENSDORF | 12 miles app. |
| (h) | MUNGENSDORF to OBER HATTERT | 60 miles app. |

(3) Points between which Marched with Dates:

- (a) To move the Battalion on 5 March 1945 from ESCHWEILER via the towns of GLOTZHEIM and BLATZHEIM to a new station at KERPEN (266533)
- (b) To move the Battalion on 6 March 1945 from KERPEN via MODRATH and BENZELRATH to a new location at FRECHEN for the purpose of supply and administration following in close proximity to firing companies.

- (c) To move the Battalion on 9 March 1945 from FRECHEN via the towns of BACHEN, GLEBEL, ALSTADEN and MURTH to a new assembly area at GOLDBERG.
 - (d) To move the Battalion on 11 March 1945 from GOLDBERG via HJALL, FLECKEN to assembly area in KONIGSDORF.
 - (e) To move the Battalion on 14 March 1945 from KONIGSDORF via the towns of HORNEM, MODRATH, TUNICH and KLEMDORF to assembly area in OBER-LIBLAR.
 - (f) To move the Battalion on 16 March 1945 from OBER-LIBLAR to new station at WALBBERG.
 - (g) To move the Battalion on 22 March 1945 from WALBBERG via BRUHL and MESSELNICH to a new location at MUNGERSDORF.
 - (h) To move the Battalion on 29 March 1945 from MUNGERSDORF via the towns of BORN, and ALLENHIRTEN to a new location at OBER MATTELT.
- (4) Conditions of roads and weather: Roads were good and consisted generally of main highways or improved hard topped roads.

Weather was generally warm and sunny with occasional rain.

- (5) Marches were made without incident.

1. Campaigns: Germany II (September 15 to present).

2. Battles

ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE

- (1) The ~~Offensive~~ Offensive Cont'd. (To 8 March 45)

(a) The Enemy.

- 1. The G-2 estimate of the enemy situation at the beginning of the period disclosed the Corps front opposed by the 9 Pz Div, 363 VG Div, and the 3 Pz Gren Div and 12 VG Div. Also included were miscellaneous units and combat teams.

A large scale shifting of enemy forces was caused by our attack. The enemy shuttled and committed divisions and units piecemeal to plug holes in his defense. The enemy at this time was hard pressed for personnel and many combat stragglers and non-combat troops were immediately inducted into front line units.

Enemy reserves were practically non-existent and rapid deterioration of the enemy situation indicated a withdrawal to the E bank of the RHINE with isolated strong points held on the W bank to facilitate a withdrawal. One such defense circled the city of SOLOGNE situated in the path of the Division's advance.

The enemy was hastily but well prepared, falling back in defense to positions surrounding towns and natural obstacles.

No special weapons were used by the enemy.

Morale was considered to be poor. Many Volksturm troops who the Wehrmacht was dependent upon for the defensive towns, desintegrated in the face of opposition, and deserted their posts.

2. Enemy defenses were built around towns which were converted into strong points.

Natural obstacles such as rivers and canals were defended to the maximum by both the Wehrmacht and Volksturm. Many lignite mines in this area canalized our advance and gave the enemy a defensive advantage.

Enemy use of mines was liberal at the beginning of the period but later deminished due to the rapidly moving situation. Road blocks at the approaches of towns and SP weapons were later used.

Demolitions were widely used in cratering roads, blowing bridges and creating obstacles to delay our advance.

3. At the beginning of the period the enemy opposing the Div sector consisted of the following units: the 2nd and 3rd Bn of the 29th PGR, 1st and 2nd Bns of the 8th PGR, Remnants of the 12 VG Div, Remnants of the 353 Inf Div, the 454 Gren Bn, (WESTPHALEN), 80th march Bn (KOBLENZ), the 14th Co of the 536 Gren Bn (WESTPHALEN), 3rd Engr Bn of the 3rd PG Div.

These units gradually evolved into four (4) basic elements: The 29th PGR, located E of FROCKEN, 8th PGR located SE of FROCKEN, the 4th Port Bn vic FROCKEN and KG KUELLER. Various and sundry attachments of all types of units filled the ranks of these already mentioned.

By the 6th of March 1945 the division had turned in it's attack to the SE and contact here was primarily with the 12th VG Div. All organization of a military nature had disappeared by the 7th of March and a conglomeration of all types of units was being contacted. These were composed of a great number of stragglers and were of no particular consequence. On 9 March 45, the Div had already reached the RHINE river SE of COLOGNE and was out of contact with the enemy.

Enemy counter-attacks consisted of approximately 100 Inf and from 2 - 4 SP guns. These gradually reduced in number and near the end of the period were used more as a defensive measure than offensive to enable troops to extricate themselves to the E bank of the RHINE.

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Enemy air attempted to delay our attack by strafing and bombing front line troops and also to cause obstacles by damaging bridges, cratering roads etc.

Enemy armor was used to support counter-attacks but tanks were conspicuous by their absence and SP's replaced artillery because of their mobility in withdrawing.

Enemy artillery was negligible although self-propelled guns, rockets and mortar fire was used extensively as a defensive and harassing agent, directed for the most part against forward elements.

The following is a consolidated list of enemy equipment destroyed during the period 1 March to 8 of March inclusive:

1 Tank (Type unknown)
3 G P Vehicles

4. The PWs were turned over to Inf elements of the Div. Three PWs were officially credited to this organization.

(b) Elements affecting action.

1. Enemy information appeared to be negligible. The rapid moving situation did not allow for enemy intelligence and after the RHINE had been reached patrol activity was held to a minimum. Several enemy patrols and saboteurs attempted to swim the river for the purpose of intelligence or to blow our bridges but these were either captured or killed.

Enemy reconnaissance consisted chiefly of night air patrols. Wide and varied use of flares were used indicating night photography. Patrol activity was held to a minimum due to the difficult crossing of the RHINE River.

2. The majority of the civilian population was docile and cooperative. Several rumors concerning sabotage and attempts upon the lives of Americans were reported however. Generally, good discipline was maintained and no major problems occurred. These had no effect on the action.

Use of the Volksturm as front line troops resulted in failure. These units quickly surrendered or deserted when faced with artillery and small arms fire.

3. Nature of terrain: See Battalion History for month of February 1945.

(c) Action:

1. Hq 644 TD Bn assigned to FIRST US Army attached to 8th Inf Div. Co C, 644 TD Bn, attached to 413th Inf Regt of 104th Inf Div on 21 March 45. Crossed the RHINE and took active participation in operations (See Narrative Account of Action).

Supporting Units: See Narrative Account of Action.

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2. Mission: See following Narrative or Action.

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF ACTION

At the beginning of the period the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion continued its attachment to the 8th Infantry Division and dispositions were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Forward CP..... | KLERPEN |
| Rear CP..... | ESCHWEILLER |
| Company A CP..... | KLERPEN |
| Company B CP..... | KLERPEN |
| Company C CP..... | LANGENICH |
| Reconnaissance Company CP..... | KLERPEN |

At 1820 hours Company B left their assembly area in KERPEN, traveled North and crossed the ERFT Canal at HORBACH in the 104th Division sector, establishing contact with the 28th Infantry Regt at GÖTZENKIRCHEN. Company B then turned south, following behind the infantry and took up positions of anti-armor defense North of MODRATH which still remained in enemy hands.

The other units of the organization carried out their part of the Battalion mission which was to provide the anti-armor defense for the entire 8th Division sector and to give close support to infantry elements whenever and wherever possible.

The S-4 of the Battalion had a Forward Supply Dump in KERPEN as the period opened and one prisoner of war was captured by the personnel of that installation on 1 March 1945.

Throughout the day and night the enemy fired large caliber shells or rockets into KERPEN.

On 2 March 1945 Company A remained in anti-tank positions in KERPEN. Late in the period the 1st Platoon moved to anti-tank positions at GRIEFMATH.

Company B moved the 3d Platoon from GÖTZENKIRCHEN to HABBELMATH, the 2d Platoon to MODRATH, and the 1st Platoon to BOISDORF. During the period the 2d Platoon assisted the infantry in assault work. The 1st Platoon engaged in a fire fight with four (4) enemy tanks, destroyed one (1) and caused the remaining tanks to retreat.

Company C made a reconnaissance of the West end of MODRATH from 0800 to 0900 hours and found there was a road block preventing entry directly up the main street, and that the only other route was blocked by an enemy assault gun. However, by 1100 hours the 2d Platoon was able to move into the town. At 1300 hours the 1st Platoon moved into MODRATH and at 1400 hours the 3d Platoon followed. At 1600 hours the 2d Platoon fired 10 rounds HE at a German infantry company, at a range of 500 yards, and dispersed them. At 1800 hours the 3d Platoon M-10s moved into positions in the East end of town. During the period the Company took three (3) prisoners.

The reconnaissance Company CP plus one platoon remained at KERPEN, providing security for the Forward CP and remaining elements of Reconnaissance Company remained attached to the firing companies.

On 3 March Company A assembled all three platoons at BOTTENBROICH in preparation for a night attack in support of the 3d Bn, 28th Inf Regt.

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Company T assembled the 1st and 2d platoons at WISSEBACH in preparation for a night attack in support of the 1st Bn, 28th Inf Regt. The 3d Platoon assembled in HABELBRATH to support the 2d Bn, 28th Inf Regt.

The 1st and 3d Platoons of Company C remained in their anti-tank defense positions in MODRATH. The 2d Platoon moved to HABELBRATH and relieved the 3d Platoon of Company B in its anti-tank defense mission.

Reconnaissance Company made extensive reconnaissance in preparation for the night attack by Companies A and B. Recon patrols were used to select the routes of the destroyers in the attack. The 1st platoon had one section with the Reconnaissance Company CP in MODRATH and one section attached to Company A. The 2d Platoon was released from attachment to Company B and returned to Reconnaissance Company control in MODRATH. The 3d Platoon had one section with Company B and one section with Company A and one section with Company B.

At 1840 hours the Forward CP closed in new area at MODRATH. Reconnaissance Company also moved to MODRATH, less elements attached to firing Companies, and provided security for Forward CP.

The Forward Supply Dump was in ELLEN and the rear CP remained at ESCHWEILER.

On 4 March 1945, early in the day, Company B started attacking FRECHEN with the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 28th Infantry Regiment. The day was spent in street fighting and securing the town. At dark Company assumed the anti-armor defense of the FRECHEN area.

Company A assembled in GEMMATH early in the period and moved to FRECHEN. This Company supported the 3d Battalion of the 28th Infantry in clearing and securing the town. Assembling in FRECHEN at dark, Company A prepared to support the attack of the 1st Bn of the 121st Infantry to EMBEKEN, which was to begin at 2400 hours.

Company C assembled in FRECHEN prior to darkness. This Company supported the 2d and 3d Battalions, 121st Infantry Regiment, in their attack to seize HESSELHILF. The attack began at 2400 hours.

During the period the Forward CP and Reconnaissance Company CP, with one platoon and one section of Reconnaissance Company, moved to BENZELBRATH.

Early in the day of 5 March 1945 Company A disposed themselves as follows, in order to break up an enemy tank attack. One platoon at HORBELL, one platoon at SIMLSDORF, one platoon at SPOTZMILIM. Movement was made under enemy fire and movement was successful in breaking up tank threat.

Company A supported the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, in their attack to seize HESSELHILF. Company C supported 2d and 3d Battalions, 121st Infantry in their attack on HUTH. Company B supported the attack of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, with the 2d Platoon, to seize BEISENBACH and KNAPSACK.

On 6 March Company A spent the first part of the period supporting the 121st Infantry Regiment. No armor was encountered during that period. At 1900 hours Company A supported the 28th Infantry Regiment in an attack to the East. No armor was encountered.

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Company B spent the early part of the period supporting the 1st Battalion of the 28th Infantry Regiment. No armor was encountered during the supporting mission. By 1130 hours Company B had established anti-armor defense on the Division's southern flank. They remained in that position throughout the balance of the period.

Company C spent the entire period in support of elements of the 121st Infantry Regiment. No armor was encountered.

During the period, the Forward CP and Reconnaissance Company (-), by infiltration, moved forward to new area at the GOLLEMBERG Power Plant, near KNAPSACK. Reconnaissance Company CP personnel, plus the 2d Platoon and one section of the 3d Platoon, continued to provide security for the Forward CP, while other elements remained attached to the firing companies and reconnoitered the zones of advance.

On 7 March Company A supported the attack of the 28th Infantry Regiment during the hours of daylight without incident.

Company B passed through Company A at dark and supported the attack of the 28th Infantry Regiment.

The 2d Platoon of Company C closed in position in the vicinity of KEMMELICH and the 3d Platoon and CP remained in HORNICH. The 1st Platoon moved to FISCHELEICH.

Early in the morning, 8 March, the 2d Platoon of Company C was given the mission of supporting one battalion of the 121st Infantry Regiment and took up anti-armor defense positions.

Company A destroyed two (2) SP guns from positions maintained when Company B passed through them.

Company B continued support of the 28th Infantry Regiment in mopping up.

Having reached the RHINE River, and an armored threat no longer present, Companies A and C moved to the Battalion Assembly area at KNAPSACK.

3. No special weapons were used during the period.

Communications were excellent, both radio and wire were maintained with higher Hqs. Within the Battalion, radio communications were maintained to the companies by 608 FM sets and down to companies with 610's enabling the Battalion to contact every vehicle. Whenever possible direct wire was laid to Sn Twd CP. Company C out of contact after RHINE crossing except for messenger.

4. Supporting artillery massed fire on German counter-attacking forces, fired supporting missions and preparation fire in the attack. Harassing and interdiction missions were fired from the W bank of the RHINE in support of troops attacking to the North along the E bank of the river.

The engineers assisted in many phases of the operation, clearing roads, building bridges, filling craters, bridging obstacles, clearing road blocks and minefields and maintaining roads.

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5. Use of Bayonet, Grenades, Flame throwers etc:
Not Applicable.

6. Supply and Evacuation: Supply was difficult but adequate. Units were usually far in advance of supply dumps and long hauls for ammo, rations, and fuel were made. Action was generally along one main route and traffic was congested E of the ROER. The Battalion solved these difficulties by establishing forward dumps along the route of advance.

Evacuation was normally handled through Inf Aid stations.

7. Casualties: (See attached Casualty List)

(2) BATTLE OF THE ROER (8 March to end of period)

(a) The enemy

1. Following the surprise crossing of the RHINE at the NEULEGAM Bridge the enemy forces opposing the Corps front were varied and disorganized. This disorganization gradually evolved itself in the identification of the following units: Remnants of two Pz Divs, one Para Div and one Inf Div. The 9 Pz Div, 3d Pz Gr Div, 3d Para Div, 62 VG Div plus elements of the 353, 363 Inf Divs and 106 Pz, 340 VG Div and 130 Pz Lehr were identified with the 326 VG Div and 5 Para Div making an appearance later in the period.

Estimated to be in reserve were those enemy divisions who had managed to extricate themselves from the 7th Corps front in their retreat across the RHINE. These consisted of the 3 Pz Gr Div and 106 Pz Brigade.

Opposing the Div sector on 29 March 45 were elements of the following enemy units: 12 Inf Div, 353 Inf Div, 89 Regt of 12 VG Div, 62 Inf Div, 363 Inf Div, 130 Pz Lehr, 3 Pz Div, 1035 Inf Regt of the 59 Div.

The enemy was poorly prepared to defend after our crossing in strength of the RHINE river. Units were committed in a fluid situation until little or no reserves were available. Those units committed, hastily defended the fringe of the bridgehead utilizing all the advantages at hand i.e. high ground, natural waterways, and road junctions.

No special weapons were used during the period.

Morale was considered to be poor.

- 2. Enemy defenses were hasty but effective. Natural obstacles were exploited, roads blocked with fallen trees, and streams, high ground, and any position of advantage was held irregardless of losses.

Both AP and personnel mines were used in hasty patterns but became widely scattered and ineffective to the general plan. These were usually found around road blocks and anti-tank positions.

Demolitions were extensively used by the retreating enemy to slow our advance.

- 3. Disposition of enemy units, changes in disposition during battle: (See para. 1.)

Counter-attacks were launched in extreme instances in order to reoccupy, key positions captured by our forces. These counter-attacks relied on crafty tactics instead of force. Infiltration without any artillery or mortar support was used in retaking towns. In other instances some mortar and artillery preparation was used with much noise, in attack, by 100 infantry armed with Panzerfausts.

Enemy air made repeated suicidal attempts to destroy bridges and ferry sites across the RUINE. All of these failed and many enemy planes were downed.

Enemy armor was widespread and used primarily as infantry-support weapons. One or two tanks operated with approximately 100 infantry in the counter-attack.

Enemy artillery was active against the bridgehead in its initial stages but gradually subsided as friendly armor advanced and caused it to displace.

The following enemy equipment was destroyed during the period:

- 5 Mark V Tanks
- 1 Mark VI Tank
- 1 Armored Vehicle
- 5 GP Vehicles
- 2 SP Guns
- 2 MG's
- 2 Enemy OPs
- 2 Strongpoints
- Several earthwork fortifications.

- 4. No enemy prisoners were officially taken by this unit during the period. All prisoners captured were turned over to infantry elements.

(b) Elements affecting action:

- 1. Enemy information agencies had apparently broken down to some extent following the rapid expansion of the bridgehead. The general situation was not apparent to the enemy as proved by counter-attacks launched in areas of no military importance.

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Enemy reconnaissance was limited to nightly sorties by planes crossing the Div sector dropping flares and taking pictures.

2. Civilian population was docile and after their initial fear of murder and rape, as taught by German propoganda, had been dispelled, they cooperated freely and in some instances pointed out enemy positions and tank locations. Some of this cooperation was due to the fact that these people did not want their towns and properties turned into a battle ground.
3. Terrain E of the RHINE rose sharply to high ground a short distance from the river. The country from here to the E was hilly, wooded, and easily defended.

(c) Action:

1. Hq 644 TD Bn attached to 8th Inf Div Arty. Co C attached to 104th Inf Div as of 21 March 1945. Bn TD located at KUNIGSDORF, Germany, (396608).
2. Mission: To act as armored defence of the Div sector and also as artillery in support of Inf elements E of the RHINE. Co C to act in direct support of Inf of the 413th Regt of the 104th Inf Div.

narrative ACCOUNT OF THE ACTION

On 9 March Company D arrived in the Battalion assembly Area and by 0800 hours the entire Battalion was assembled in that area.

The Battalion remained in its assigned assembly area on 10 March and continued its program of maintenance and repair. During the day preparations were made for movement to KONIGSDORF.

On 11 March the Battalion moved from KNAPSACK to a new assembly area in the vicinity of KONIGSDORF, GERMANY.

For the next two days the Battalion remained in this assembly area and continued maintenance, repair, modification and reorganization.

On the 14th of March the entire Battalion moved from assembly area in vicinity of KONIGSDORF to designated assembly area at OBER LIBLAR. From this area the Battalion continued maintenance and initiated reconnaissance in preparation for future operations.

On 16 March the entire Battalion moved from positions in OBER LIBLAR to a new assembly area in WALBERBERG. The 1st Platoon of Company A further moved, at 1800 hours, to DOMM, in preparation for direct fire on targets East of the RHINE River.

Effective this date the Battalion was attached to 8th Infantry Division Artillery.

At the beginning of the period, 17 March, the Battalion, less 1st Platoon, Company A, was at WALBERBERG.

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The 1st Platoon of Company A fired on and destroyed an enemy OP East of the RHINE River. During the day the balance of Company A moved to BOMI.

Company C moved to BERZDORF where two platoons took up indirect fire positions.

On 18 March Company A destroyed, by direct fire, an enemy OP located in a water tower on the East side of the RHINE River.

Company B had two platoons in indirect fire positions.

On 19 March Company C fired indirect fire missions at 1330, 1500 and 1600 hours. All units made reconnaissance for future operations.

On 20 March Reconnaissance Company was attached to 6th Recon Troop and moved to ROGGENDORF. A mission of patrolling the area was assigned them.

Company A moved to the VOLKHOVEN area and went into indirect fire positions with all platoons.

Company B moved into indirect firing positions with all platoons in the COLOGNE area.

Company C moved to BORNHEIM area and went into indirect fire positions.

Each company registered with one gun of each platoon and prepared for missions to be assigned.

On 21 March Company C was attached to the 413th Infantry Regiment of the 104th Infantry Division and moved, at 1500 hours, to an assembly area at HIMBERG, east of the RHINE River.

Companies A and B fired harassing missions during the period.

The Battalion Forward and Rear JCs moved to HUNGERSDORF.

On 22 March Companies A and B fired a total of thirty-nine (39) missions.

Company C placed one platoon in support of each battalion of the 413th Infantry Regiment.

On 23 March Company C, now located at FAULENBITZE, was attached to the 415th Infantry Regiment of the 104th Infantry Division. The 1st Platoon remained attached to the 413th Infantry Regiment. All Platoons supported attacks by these two regiments.

Companies A and B continued indirect, harassing fire.

During the 24th of March Companies A and B fired both observed and unobserved missions throughout the period.

There was no change in the status of Company A, on 25 March.

Company B destroyed one enemy OP and at 0100 hours, with ten (10) destroyers, simulated an attack. The M-10s raced their motors and moved over the GODART-ILMENDORF-GJESDORF road for a period of one (1) hour.

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Company C remained with the 104th Infantry Division, employed in mopping up behind the 3d Armored Division, and knocked out two (2) Mark V Panther tanks and two (2) self-propelled guns. Three tank destroyers received hits but all were repaired before the end of the period.

On the 26th of March Company C was released from attachment to the 104th Infantry Division and was attached to the 10th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division. All platoons were in direct support of the battalions of the regiment.

On 27 March Company A was still engaged in its mission of indirect supporting fire.

Company B continued its mission of supporting fires, and, coordinating with the 2d Battalion of the 1st Infantry Regiment, knocked out a machine gun nest with direct fire.

Reconnaissance Company was released from attachment to the 8th Reconnaissance Troop on 28 March and assembled in BUNGENSDORF.

Company A also moved to the assembly area in BUNGENSDORF.

Company B was attached to CP 13 and moved from the SOLOGNE area to DAADEN, east of the RHINE river, at 1000 hours.

Company C continued to support the 10th Infantry Regiment in its attack and engaged in mopping up pockets of resistance north of the main drive by the 3d Armored Division.

On the 29th of March the Battalion (-) moved across the RHINE River into the new 8th Infantry Division Assembly Area in the vicinity of MACHENBERG.

Company A was attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment.

Company B remained attached to CP 13.

Company C was relieved from attachment to the 10th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division and was attached to the 121st Infantry Regiment of the 8th Infantry Division.

Reconnaissance Company, under battalion control, had elements attached to the firing companies of the battalion.

On 30 March Company A was engaged on assault gun missions with elements of the 28th Infantry Regiment. There was no contact with enemy armor.

Company B remained attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment, with all three platoons in close support of the three battalions of the Regiment. The 2d Platoon destroyed one machine gun in a fortification and one general purpose vehicle. The 3d Platoon destroyed one Mark V tank, two general purpose vehicles, one motorcycle, and several bicycles. In addition, the 3d Platoon killed an undetermined number of enemy personnel with 3" and Cal .50 MG fire, and probably destroyed two other Mark V tanks. Twenty prisoners of war were taken.

Company C, in support of the 121st Infantry Regiment, delivered direct, supporting fire at enemy personnel.

On 31 March Company A remained attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment and was in direct support of their attack. Just before the end of the period the 3d Platoon of Company A was attached to Task Force CRAWFORD.

Company C remained attached to 121st Infantry Regiment and fired assault gun missions into the town of DEJZ. One Mark V tank was knocked out by Company C Guns.

Company B remained attached to the 13th Infantry Regiment and supported the regiment in the attack. The 2d Platoon moved to EISERFELD at 2350 hours to support the 1st Bn, 13th Infantry Regiment.

During the period both the Forward and Rear CPs moved forward to ALLENDORF and WURGENDORF, respectively.

Reconnaissance Company moved to ALLENDORF and the CP plus 2d Platoon, plus one section of the Pioneer Platoon, continued its mission of providing security for Forward CP. 1st Platoon remained attached to Company A, 3d Platoon and one section of the Pioneer Platoon remained attached to Company C.

The final dispositions of the units at the end of the period were as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Forward CP..... | 318587 | (ALLENDORF) |
| Rear CP..... | 275401 | (WURGENDORF) |
| Company A CP..... | 058383 | (GEBHARDSHAIN) |
| 1st Platoon, Company A..... | 998429 | (WISSEN) |
| 2d Platoon, Company A..... | 058383 | (GEBHARDSHAIN) |
| 3d Platoon, Company A..... | Enroute | in support of TF CRAWFORD |
| Company B CP..... | 185435 | (NEUNKIRCHEN) |
| 1st Platoon, Company B..... | 233486 | (OBERSDORF) |
| 2d Platoon, Company B..... | 185482 | (EISERFELD) |
| 3d Platoon, Company B..... | 185481 | (EISERFELD) |
| Company C CP..... | 337508 | (HAINCHEN) |
| 1st Platoon, Company C..... | 261533 | (FEUERSBACH) |
| 2d Platoon, Company C..... | 288541 | (DEJZ) |
| 3d Platoon, Company C..... | 356550 | (LANNING) |
| Reconnaissance Company CP..... | 318588 | (ALLENDORF) |
| 1st Platoon, Recon Co..... | 058383 | (GEBHARDSHAIN) |
| 2d Platoon, Recon Co..... | 318588 | (ALLENDORF) |
| 3d Platoon, Recon Co..... | 337508 | (HAINCHEN) |
| Pioneer Platoon, Recon Co..... | 318588 | (ALLENDORF) |
| | 337508 | (HAINCHEN) |

3. Special weapons used: None

Communications: Both wire and radio communications were maintained between higher and lower headquarters. Companies maintained wire to Dn-Fwd CP and had contact to each destroyer by a 608 radio

4. Assistance from artillery: not applicable. Battalion was in static position employed as artillery.

Assistance from supporting Engineers: Not Applicable.

5. Use of Bayonet, Grenades, Flame throwers, etc. not applicable.

~~SECRET~~
b. Supply and Evacuation: Not applicable

f. Casualties: See attached casualty list.

h. Commanding Officers in important engagements.

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Bn Comdr: | 1-7 Mar | Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR |
| | 7-14 Mar | Major MAURY L GODSMALL, JR |
| | 14-24 Mar | Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR |
| | 24-27 Mar | Major EDWARD R GARTON |
| | 27-31 Mar | Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR |

CO, Hq Co: 1st Lt JOHN A BAER

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| CO, Co A: | 1-7 Mar | Major MAURY L GODSMALL, JR |
| | 7-14 Mar | Capt LESLIE P MC DOUGAL |
| | 14-31 Mar | Major MAURY L GODSMALL, JR |

CO, Co B: Capt GERALD L HOFFER

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| CO, Co C: | 1-19 Mar | Capt HARLOW F LEMON |
| | 19-31 Mar | Capt LESLIE P MC DOUGAL |

CO, Hon Co: Capt MICHAEL L HOFFER

CO, Med Det: Capt MATTHEW L BURG

i. Losses in Action - Officers and Enlisted Men

(1) Engagement.

- (a) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE
- (b) BATTLE OF MI ROER

(2) Names.

- (a) ROER RIVER OFFENSIVE

1. Officers: None

2. Enlisted Men

S/Sgt George A Bonacci, 32004912, (WIA)
Sgt Guy A Dugan, 33104850, (WIA)
Sgt Philip A Sierzo, 32184390 (WIA)
Sgt Angelo R Palumbo, 32003648, (WIA)
Tec 4 Edward Paner, 32035713, (WIA)
Tec 4 Buford E Meyers, 39010462, (WIA)
Cpl Franklyn L Selby, 35013670, (WIA)
Cpl Jarroll Hohensee, 34153355, (WIA)
Cpl Eugene M. Painter, 36441880, (WIA)
Tec 5 Daniel Sage, 33475918, (WIA)
Tec 5 William R Hooper, 34135364, (WIA)
Tec 5 William A. Visnich, 33418389, (WIA)
Pfc Harry A Horting, 33194765, (WIA)
Pfc William H Crumlic, 33494774, (WIA)
Pfc Chester R Giezentanner, 36553868, (WIA)
Pvt Edward L Miller, 13058732, (WIA)
Pvt Reginald B Guy, 34135600, (WIA)
Pvt Charles W Kircher, 31454765, (WIA)
Pvt Daley J Mink, 32046738, (WIA)
Pvt Cecil B White, 17010618, (WIA)
Pvt Andrew J King, 33104613, (WIA)
Pvt Joseph P Callanan, 20248057, (WIA)

~~SECRET~~
(b) BATTLE OF THE ROHR

1. Officers:

1st Lt RUSSELL F MESSER, 01825872, (KIA) ✓
1st Lt JOHN C MULLOHLAND, 01999776, (KIA) ✓
1st Lt CHARLES E COATS, 01822258, (WIA)

2. Enlisted Men:

S/Sgt Robert W Grant, 20235523, (WIA)
Sgt Richard F Mayhurst, 32109421, (WIA)
Cpl Philip J Cassidy, 36414216, (WIA)
Tec 4 Willis J Wells, 34456256, (WIA)
Pfc Freeman L Trothingham, 36553929, (WIA)
Pvt Robert J Mills, 35657549, (WIA)

(3) Killed in Action.

(a) ROHR RIVER OFFENSIVE.

None.

(b) BATTLE OF THE ROHR

1. Officers - Two (2)

2. Enlisted Men - None.

(4) Wounded in Action.

(a) ROHR RIVER OFFENSIVE

1. Officers - None

2. Enlisted Men - Twenty-two (22)

(b) BATTLE OF THE ROHR

1. Officers - One (1)

2. Enlisted Men - Six (6)

(5) Missing in Action.

None.

(6) Taken Prisoner.

None.

~~SECRET~~
BATTLE CASUALTY LIST

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Co</u> | <u>Diagnosis</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Disposition</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Charles L Coats 1st Lt 01822238 | C | WIA Shell W(HE)LW,rt hand, sl | 24 Feb 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 2 | Bert N Joyce 1st Lt 01170789 | B | WIA Shell W(HE)CW lt arm, LW lt | 24 Feb 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 3 | Henry B Harrington Pfc 34175617 | C | Old injury, rt knee | 25 Feb 45 | 44 E.H. | MB Injury |
| 4 | Guy A Dougan Sgt 33104850 | A | WIA Shell W(HE)LW rt arm & rt, side, sl | 28 Feb 45 | Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 5 | Harry A Horting Pfc 33194765 | A | WIA Shell W(HE)FCC nasal bones, Perf W, nose | 28 Feb 45 | 102 EH | Battle Casualty |
| 6 | Julian Wojcik Cpl 31050207 | B | Contusion, lt hand, metacarpal bone | 28 Feb 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Injury |
| 7 | Gustave A Rauch S/Sgt 32066864 | A | Varicose veins (for injections) | 1 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 8 | George W Neil Pvt 31131201 | A | WIA Shell W(HE)LW chin, sl | 1 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 9 | J.C. Bain 1st Lt 0-1821582 | Hq | Hemorrhoids, external | 1 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 10 | Edward Paner T/4 32035713 | Med | WIA Shell W(HE)Pen W multiple back, sl | 2 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 11 | Franklyn B Selby Cpl 35013676 | Med | WIA Shell W(HE)Pen W, lt upper arm, LW abdomen, Pen W lt thigh | 2 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 12 | Edward E Miller Pvt 13058732 | B | WIA Shell W(mortar) Pen W rt chest sucking | 2 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 13 | Daniel Sage1 T/5 33475918 | B | WIA Shell W(mortar) Pen w lt forearm | 2 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| | Buford L Myers T/4 39016462 | B | WIA Shell W(HE)Pen lt arm | 2 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 15 | Leonard F Tomash T/4 37194765 | C | WIA Shell W(HE)CW lower rt leg & lt thigh, sl | 3 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 16 | Reginald B Guy Pvt 34135000 | A | WIA Shell W(HE) Pen W, rt thigh | 4 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle |
| 17 | Charles W Kirker Pvt 31454705 | A | WIA Shell W(HE) abrasion, rt hand concussion cerebral | 4 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 18 | Daley J Mink Pvt 32046738 | A | WIA Shell W(HE)Punc W lt shoulder sv, lw rt chest sl | 4 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 19 | Cecil B White Pvt 17010018 | A | WIA Shell W(HE) Pen W, chest posterior | 4 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 20 | John R Allender Sgt 39271917 | B | WIA Shell W(HE)LW nose | 4 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 21 | Attilio R DiCesare T/4 32057884 | B | WIA Shell W(HE)Pen W lip, sl | 4 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |

| No | Name | Co | WIA, M.O.B.I.S. | Date | Disposition | Remarks |
|----|---|-----|--|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 22 | Edgar G. Wood T/5 35046457 | Hq | COLLUSIONS, rt hand | 5 Mar '45 | 8 Clr RFD 25 Mar Sta | Disease |
| 23 | William H. Crumlic Pfc 33494774 | B | WIA Shell W(mortar) LW lt knee | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 24 | Gus W. Norman 1st Lt 01822570 | B | WIA Bomb W(mine)Pen W back | 5 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 25 | George A. Bonacci S/Sgt 32004912 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)Mult Punc W lt axilla, both legs | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 26 | William A. Hooper T/5 34135364 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)Punc W rt leg, rt arm, rt chest | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 27 | William P. Visnich T/5 33418389 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)Punc W lt arm mult punc w lt thigh, lt leg & rt knee | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 28 | Chester R. Giezenpanner Pfc 36553868 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)PC mandible incomplete | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 29 | Carroll Hohensee Cpl 34153355 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)Mult punc W back & legs | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 30 | Andrew J. King Pvt 33104613 | C | WIA Sprain, lumber muscles caused by shell ex- plosion | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 31 | Eugene H. Painter Cpl 36441880 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)Punc W lt forearm | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr RFD 21 Mar 45 Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 32 | Joseph P. Callahan Pvt 20248057 | C | WIA Shell W(HB)Pen W thigh rt, LW face MEL | 6 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 33 | Philip H. Cierzo Sgt 32184390 | A | WIA Shell W(HB)Perr W behind lt knee, pen / lt leg, poss PC lt tibia | 5 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 34 | Angelo A. Palumbo Sgt 32003648 | B | WIA GS/ (M.G.)Pen W lt hand | 6 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 35 | Paul A. Pfeiffer Pfc 32324687 | A | WIA Shell W(mortar) LW lt elbow | 7 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 36 | Vincent J. Crivello Sgt 39117660 | B | WIA Burn(Phos.)rt eye | 8 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 37 | Clifford J. Malaron Pfc 33299103 | Non | Dental Abscess | 9 Mar 45 | 8 Clr RFD 17 Mar 45 Sta | Disease |
| 38 | William Mills Pfc 18057258 | Non | Recurrent malaria poss. | 11 Mar 45 | 104 Clr | Disease |
| 39 | Melvin L. Lewis T/4 33547683 | A | Trench Foot | 12 Mar 45 | 8 Clr RFD 17 Mar 45 Sta | IB Injury |
| 40 | Louis L. Conrad Sgt 34153578 | C | Died of injuries | 12 Mar 45 | FA AS | IB Injury |

| No | Name | Co | Dis. Basis | Date | Position | Remarks |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 41 | Peter J Czachor T/Sgt 32057847 | | Hemorrhoids, Int & Ext | 13 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 42 | Charles A Sturts Pvt 33475946 | B | Recurrence, old gonorrhea | 13 Mar 45 MID 21 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 43 | Albert M Tullii T/4 31056758 | B | Old injury, back O for removal of shrapnel | 13 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | IB Injury |
| 44 | Anthony G Ventimiglia Pfc 31192858 | B | Pain, rt eye, cause Undet. | 19 Mar 45 MID 27 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 45 | Edwin T. Danks Sgt 32183334 | Hq | Impetigo, face | 19 Mar 45 MID 27 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 46 | Russell F Lesser 1st Lt 01825872 | Ken | KIA | 19 Mar 45 | | Battle Casualty |
| 47 | Jack W Taylor T/5 34180306 | Ken | Possible syphilis | 21 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 48 | Philip J Cassidy Cpl 36414216 | A | MIA Bomb W (Lobby Prop) rt arm, powder burns lt arm | 21 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Battle Casualty |
| 49 | Freeman L Frothingham Pfc 36553929 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) FC rt tibia & fibula | 21 Mar 45 | 102 BH | Battle Casualty |
| 50 | Louis Glick Pfc 35728956 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) LW rt knee | 21 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 51 | George A Daniels T/5 32693909 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) LW rt leg | 21 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 52 | Robert W Grant S/Sgt 20233323 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) Traum Amputation lt mid finger | 22 Mar 45 | 9 BH | Battle Casualty |
| 53 | Willis J Wells T/4 34456256 | C | WIA Bomb W (mine) LW face strain, back & shoulder | 24 Mar 45 | D' L.H. | Battle Casualty |
| 54 | Robert J Mills Pvt 35657349 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) LW, nose | 23 Mar 45 | 102 BH | Battle Casualty |
| | John J Mulholland 1st Lt 01999776 | C | KIA | 24 Mar 45 | | Battle Casualty |
| 56 | Joseph P Santovito Sgt 33476201 | C | Poss MS rt ankle | 24 Mar 45 MID 1 Apr 45 | 8 Clr | IB Injury |
| 57 | Philip W Jarosci Pvt 33780551 | B | MUO - Temp 100.8 | 24 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 58 | Charles W Coats 1st Lt 01822238 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) Len W chest lt arm, poss FC lt arm lt thigh | 24 Mar 45 | 97 BH Pen W | Battle Casualty |
| 59 | William L. Stephens T/5 33418257 | C | Transient Amblyopia (?) old flash burns | 26 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 60 | Joseph J Giusto T/Sgt 32602281 | C | WIA Shell W (LB) LW rt hand, SW head | 27 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |

| <u>No</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Co</u> | <u>Diagnosis</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Disposition</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 01 | Richard F. Lyhurst Sgt 32109421 | C | WIA Shell W(L) Pen W lt hand & rt thigh | 27 Mar 45 | 45 M.H. | Battle Casualty |
| 02 | Harry S Evans Sgt 32486106 | B | WIA Shell W(HE)LW metal sprain lt knee | 30 Mar 45 | Duty | Battle Casualty |
| 03 | Benedict L. Abate T/4 32187047 | B | G.I. Temp 102 | 30 Mar 45 | 3 Clr Sta | Disease |
| 04 | Robert J. Brown Sgt 20256625 | A | Back pain, poss kidney disorder | 31 Mar 45 | 8 Clr Sta | Disease |

J. Former and Present Members who have Distinguished themselves in Action.

(1) Silver Star Award.

OWEN R McDERMOTT, 0886903, 1st Lt, FA, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. The gallantry, initiative and disregard for personal safety displayed by this officer reflect highest honor upon himself and the United States Army. Entered military service from New York.

(2) Bronze Star Award.

HENRY A GARNON, JR, 0407272, Major (then Captain), FA, Company A, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Commanding Officer in connection with military operations in Western Europe during the period 11 September 1944 to 25 November 1944 against an enemy of the United States. Major GARNON's outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

CARL H WIGGINHORN, 0349022, Captain, FA, Company I, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Commanding Officer in connection with military operations in France during the period 27 August 1944 to 20 September 1944 against an enemy of the United States. Captain WIGGINHORN's outstanding accomplishments and performances of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Nebraska.

CHARLES S BROWN, 02122989, CWO, FA, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 July 1944 to 12 February 1945, in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Vincent S Pashkewich, 32058682, 1/Sgt, FA, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 July 1944 to 15 February 1945, in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Lawrence P Allshouse, 37086217, S/Sgt, FA, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 July 1944 to 15 February 1945, in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany. Entered military service from Wyoming.

Cleston L Chester, 36553859, Sgt, FA, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 18 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Michigan.

Philip N Cierzo, 32184390, Sgt, FA, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 10 September 1944, in France. Entered military service from New Jersey.

(3) Croix de Guerre Award.

EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR, 020838, Lt Colonel, pour services exceptionnels de Guerre rendus au cours des operations de liberation de la France.

HENRY A GARTON, JR, 0407272, Major(then Captain), pour services exceptionnels de Guerre rendus au cours des operations de liberation de la France.

Rewards:

- One (1) Silver Star Medal
- Seven (7) Bronze Star Medals
- Two (2) Croix de Guerre Medals

k. Photographs: Attached

For the Commanding Officer:

Harlow F. Lennon
 HARLOW F LENNON
 Captain, FA
 S-2

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