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### HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 339 US Army 9 June 45

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Period 1 May 1945 Through 31 May 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		٠.			٠			37
Warrant	off1	Ce	r					1
Enlisted	Men		٠.					587

(2) Net Increase for Period

Officers						٠				0
Warrant 0	TI	1	.01	er						0
Enliated	Ma		Ö		£.					0

(3) Net Decrease for Period

Officers								3
Warrent	Offic	er						0
Enlisted	Mon	2000	3	33	S.E	e		21

(4) At End of Period

d. Stations of Unit or Parts Thereof:

Station: KIRCHWEYHE, GERMANY (881932)

At beginning of period Date of departure - 1 May 45

SUTTORF, GERMANY (939208)

Date of arrival - 1 May 45 Date of departure - 2 May 45

BAHLEN, GERMANY (020341)

Date of arrival - 2 May 45 Date of departure - 3 May 45

SCHWERIN, GERMANY (437658)

Date of arrival - 3 May 45 Station at end of period

#### e. Marches:

- (1) Marches were made in order to maintain close contact with the enemy or to move to a new sector; also to maintain close supply and administration with gun companies advancing with elements of Division. The Bn Forward CP and Forward Dumps were centrally located in a some occupied by the TD Companies.
  - (2) Length of Daily March:

KIRCHWEYHE to SUTTORF - 18 miles (Approx) SUTTORF to BAHLEN - 16 miles (Approx) BAHLEN to SCHWERIN - 40 miles (Approx)

- (3) Points Between Which Marched, With Dates:
  - (a) To move the Bn from KIRCHWEYHE at the beginning of the period via the towns of HEVENSEN, ALTENMEDINGEN and BOHNDORF to a new station at SUTTORF.
  - (b) To move the Bn from SUTTORF on 2 May 1945 via the town of BLECKEDE to a new station at BAHLEN.
  - (c) To move the Bn from BAHLEN on 3 May 1945 via the towns of BOHLENDORF, DERSENOW, PRITZIER, TODDIN, HAGENOW, VIEZ, BAKENDORF, GAMMELIN, BERSENDORF, WARSAW, PAMPOW and WUSTMARK to a new station at SCHWERIN.
- (4) Condition of Roads and Weather:

Roads were generally good, hard topped, and in some state of repair. On the final drive to the BALTIC, intermediate reads were used due to the tactical situation. Weather was generally warm and sunny.

- (5) Marches were made without incident. (See Marrative of Action for drive to SCHWERIN)
  - f. Campaigns: CENTRAL EUROPE (22 Mar 45 to End of War)
  - g. Battles:
    - (1) Drive to BALTIC Beginning of period to 3 May 45.
      - (a) The Enemy:

At the beginning of the period the Bn occupied the North bank of the ELBE River. Units of the 2d British Army had closed to a line along the south bank and prior to the beginning of the period a bridgehead had been established. The enemy had had a week to regroup and train additional manpower with possible strategic reserves drawn from DENMARK or the area North of BEHLIN.

At this time a junction between the Americans and Russians had been attained. The Italian front had been severed and HIMMLER had made his bid for peace. It was also possible that the German Army would have a preference to get out of the war and escape the Russians who were hard on their heels by capitulating to our forces.

It was anticipated that offensive action similar to that used in the RUHR Pocket would prevail, i.e., defense of road

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blocks, inhabited towns, key terrain features. This defense to be made by Infantry and AA and Flak guns, the latter of which were estimated at between 50 to 100 North of the ELBE.

We large mass of troops was available to the enemy and overall strength was estimated at between 2000 and 3600 troops.

Ho special weapons were used.

Enemy morale was at a low ebb, the lowest in the war. Bulk surrender to US and British forces was a choice between the lesser of two evils - the Wehrmacht having a healthy respect for the Red Army.

2. Enemy defenses were light to nothing. Except for a few road blocks and only spotty resistance by isolated individuals the Division's advance was uninterrupted until the mass of prisoners and evacuess made it necessary to halt.

No mines, obstacles or demoiltions were used.

3. Enemy dispositions were many and varied. A conglomeration of troops from all types of units were encountered. These swelled in volume and passed any estimate thought possible prior to the advance.

Use of counterattack - None

Use of Air - Negligible - Several fighter planes appeared over the Bn sector during the advance but committed no hostile act.

Artillery was used in the early stages of the bridgehead but this was light and eventually disappeared.

The following enemy equipment was destroyed or captured by this unit during the period:

Destroyed: 1 AT gun 4 General Purpose Venicles

Captured: 20 General Purpose Venicies

4. Number of prisoners of war - '/40 PWs were accounted for by this Bn during the period. Thousands of prisoners were by-passed or collected in fields and no accurate count or estimate could be made. Division took app 245,000 prisoners and 45 Cen Officers.

#### (b) Elements arrecting action:

1. Effectiveness of enemy information and reconnaissance - None

2. Attitude of civilian population and their effect on the action - Civilians were obedient and docile claiming for the most part that they were "Good Germans" and were giad the war, into which they were forced by the Hazis, was over.

7. Nature of terrain: Area was composed of trapezoid bounded on the north by an arm of the Baltic Sea, on

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the west by the ELBE-TRAVE Canal, on the south by the ELBE River and on the east by a N-S line through the SCHWERINER-SEE. This was divided into two distinct type topographical sectors. The ELBE Valley extending east and northeast of the ELBE River for depths of two to ten miles and to the east and northeast of the marsh lands to the Baltic Sea was undulating countryside - extensively cultivated. The major rivers, the SUME, the BOISE and SCHALLE flow generally SW through to the ELBE. The area E and ME of the ELBE Valley to the sea consists of gently rolling hills with no definite ridge line. Forests cover 5 to 20% of the area.

#### (c) Action.

- 2. 644 TD Bn attached to 82d Airborne Division until 011000 May 1945. Thereafter attached to 8th Inf Div.
- 2. Mission: See Narrative Account of Action.

#### NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF ACTION

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

At 010600 May one (1) destroyer from the 3d Platoon, Company A, struck a large mine which overturned and burned the destroyer.

During the day the 1st and 3d Platoons of Reconnaissance Company continued to support the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and spent the day enlarging the bridgehead over the ELEE River.

At 1000 hours on 1 May the Battalion was detached from the 82d Airborne Division and was attached to the 6th Infantry Division.

Prior to darkness on the lat of May the Battalion had all elements across the ELEE River and had assembled in the bridgehead area in the vicinity of BAHLEN, GERMANY.

Starting at 0600 hours on 2 May the entire Battalion (-Rear CP) engaged in attacking North from BAHLEN, GERMANY. The unit was in two (2) columns: Companies B and C, the Forward CP, Reconnaissance Company (-one platoon), were with Task Force ADAMS, along with elements of the 740th Tank Battalion, the 121st Infantry Regiment, and other units; Company A and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company were with Task Force KUNZIG, which also included elements of the 121st Infantry Regiment and other units. An advance of from 35 to 40 miles was made to coordinates (348689), west of SCHWERIN, GERMANY. There was no incident. Cal .50 firing and some small arms were the only weapons used. Two (2) German planes were sighted during the advance. Company A destroyed one (1) enemy liaison plane. Mumerous prisoners of war were taken by all participating units. Movement toward the Baltic Sea was halted by Division order and at the end of the day the Battalion was in the following locations:

Forward CP CRAMONSHAGEN
Rear CP SUTTORF
Company A Vic 845780
Company B DALKERG
Company C WENDELSDORF
Reconnaissance Company CRAMONSHAGEN

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On 3 May the Battalion remained in an assembly area and carried on maintenance of materiel, repair and reorganization, in addition to rounding up numerous prisoners of war in and around all unit areas. During the latter part of the day the Rear CP moved into SCHWERIN and the balance of the Bn assembled in GROSS ROGALM and KLEINER ROGALM.

At 1800 hours Reconnaissance Company was given the mission of driving and guarding prisoners of war. One platoon began this mission at the end of the day.

During the remainder of the period the entire Battalion assembled in SCHWERIN, GERMANY. All companies were given missions of guarding prisoners of war and administering displaced persons' camps. The period ended with the entire unit engaged in these missions.

- Special weapons used None
   Communications: By radio only, due to nature of attack.
- 4. Assistance from supporting artillery and engineers None
- Use of bayonet, grenades, flame throwers -Hone
- Supply and evacuation: Excellent but not required due to early attainment of objective.
- 7. Casualties See attached casualty list.
- h. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:

Bn Comdr:	1-7 May 45 8-9 May 45	Lt Col EPHRAIM F GRAHAM, JR Major EDWARD R GARTON
CO, Hq Co	4 4	Major HARRY L GODSHALL, JR
CO, Co A		Capt JAMES C WILLIAMS
CO, Co B	4.2	Capt GERALD L HOFFER
co, co c	1-3 May 45 4-9 May 45	Capt LESLIE P McDOUGAL Capt HARLOW F LENON
CO, Ren Co		Capt HAROLD L HOFFER

- 1. Losses in Action
  - (1) Engagement:

Drive to Baltic - Beginning of period to 3 May 45

- (2) Names See paragraphs (3) & (4) below.
- (3) Killed in Action:
  - (a) Officers

1st Lt WILLIAM M KEESLING, 01179478

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(b) Enlisted Men

Sgt Arthur S Doctors, 32693721 Cpl Andy Osko, 33418337 Pvt Floyd G Sloan, 37638743

- (4) Wounded in Action:
  - (a) Officers: Home
  - (b) Enlisted Men: Hone
- (5) Missing in Action:
  - (a) Officers: None
  - (b) Enlisted Men: None
- J. Members Distinguishing Themselves in Action:

#### SILVER STAR

Staff Sergeant R. F. E. Jordan, 34058843, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 7 April 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. At a time when a battalion of enemy paratroopers were desperately holding off repeated assaults on their well fortified positions, Sergeant Jordan, while under intense enemy mall arms and mortar fire, made a recommaissance of the enemy positions then successfully led his men and directed their fire from an exposed position. His great courage and leadership resulted in the feduction of the stronghold and the surrender of 200 German officers and enlisted men. Entered the military service from Florida.

Captain Harlow F Lenon, Oll69215, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 February 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. Personally leading the attack against the enemy, Captain Lenon pointed out targets and led the fire of tanks and tank destroyers. Then securing bascoka teams, he led them into favorable firing positions, and although exposed to enemy artillery and small arms fire and direct fire from enemy tanks, Captain Lenon directed the fire on the enemy. Through his valient actions and great courage, the objective was reached and cleared of the enemy. Entered the miltary service from Oregon.

Technical Sergeant Joseph W Giusto, 32002281, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gal-antry in action from 19 March 1945 to 5 April 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. During the seventeen day period, Sergeant Giusto, Company Motor Sergeant, effected the recovery of nine M-10 Tank Destroyers while subjected to intense enemy fire. On 23 March, Sergeant Giusto traveled a mined road under heavy enemy artillery fire to recover a disabled Tank Destroyer. Although wounded by the hostile fire, he refused evacuation and completed his mission. On 5 April, he made two Tank Destroyer recoveries in the face of furious artillery and self-propelled fire. His gallant actions and unwavering devotion to duty contributed immeasurably to the operational successes of his company. Entered the military service from New York.

Sergeant Stanley V Kepinski, 32183519, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in

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action on 16 April 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. When the advance of the infantry was halted by direct artillery fire, Sergeant Kepinski moved his Tank Destroyer into position to engage the enemy. Although thirty rounds of hostile fire were directed at his position, he maintained fire and eliminated an enemy gun. He then dismounted and from an exposed position directed devastating fire on two other enemy positions. Later when the enemy attempted to move one of their guns with an armored half-track, Sergeant Kepinski brought fire to bear on the vehicle and set it afire. His gallant actions and great courage were directly responsible for the reduction of the enemy stronghold. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

Private first class Herbert E Alldredge, 35494308, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Heconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for galiantry in action on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. Exposing himself to enemy machine gun and sniper fire, Private Alldredge manned his machine gun in the hatch of an armored car knocking out several enemy transports, a motorcycle and eight enemy soldiers. Then dismounting from his vehicle, he cleared the enemy from several houses and established a foothold on the town. By directing friendly tanks and tank destroyers to his position and by giving them the location of enemy dispositions, Private Alldredge was directly responsible for the success of the operation. Entered the military service from Indiana.

Private First Class Amos E Coty, 31322254, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 April 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. While crossing open terrain on a reconnaissance mission forward of the front lines, Private Coty and two others were suddenly confronted by a platoon of enemy infantry. After taking five prisoners, Private Coty and his companions were subjected to intense small arms fire as they reached their vehicle. Mounting the rear of the jeep, Private Coty although wounded and fully exposed to enemy fire, killed one sniper and continued firing his Browning automatic rifle until it was shot from his hands. His actions enabled the men to return with vital information instrumental in saving many lives in a later attack. Private Coty's courage and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Maine.

## SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Technician Fifth Grade Bernard Heisman, 33476140, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. Driving the lead armored vehicle into a strongly held enemy town, Technician Fifth Grade Heisman braved heavy anti-tank and Panzer Faust fire to force a breach in the enemy defenses. Though killed by enemy tank fire, his gallant actions were responsible for gaining an initial foothold which led to the complete capture of the town. His great courage and devotion to duts were in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

#### BRONZE STAR

Sergeant Edwin T Bangs, 32183334, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Headquarters Company, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Crew Chief in connection with military operations in Western Europe during the period 15 December 1944 to 15 April 1945 against an enemy of the United States. Sergeant Bangs' outstanding accomplishments and

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performance of duties are in the highest traditions or the military service. Entered the service from New Jersey.

Technician Fourth Grade Erwin C Fish, 17051043, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Headquarters Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Auto Mechanic in connection with military operations in Western Europe during the period 1 November 1944 to 30 April 1945 against an enemy of the United States. Technician Fourth Grade Fish's outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Minnesota.

Sergeant Frank P Pingitore, 32066049, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Headquarters Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Crew Chief in connection with military operations in Western Europe during the period 15 December 1944 to 15 April 1945 against an enemy of the United States. Sergeant Pingitore's outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from New Jerses.

Technician Fourth Grade Henry W Van Pernis, 35131709, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Headquarters Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Tank Mechanic in connection with military operations in Western Europe during the period 1 November 1944 to 30 April 1945 against an enemy of the United States. Technician Fourth Brade Van Pernis' outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Ohio.

Sergeant Arthur P Devine, 20236278, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company A, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 15 April 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. Without regard for his personal safety, Sergeant Devine dismounted his tank destroyer and while under enemy small arms fire located an enemy Mark V tank supported by infantrymen. Through his great courage and accurate direction of tank destroyer fire, the enemy tank was destroyed and supporting troops forced to withdraw. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

Sergeant Stephen Shimrock, 33418325, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the nemy on 30 March 1945 in the vicinity of . Germany. When the driver of the leading tank destroyer was mortally wounded, Sergeant Shimrock aided in evacuating the man while under furious enemy machine gun and morter fire. Then Sergeant Shimrock courage-ously led his tank destroyer against enemy armor enabling infantry troops to seize their objective. His unselfish disregard for his personal safety and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Technician Fourth Grade Robert M Tremblay, 31036117, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 30 March 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. When the driver of the leading tank destroyer was mortally wounded, Technician Fourth Grade Tremblay aided in evacuating the man while under Eurious enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Then Technician Fourth Grade Tremblay courageously drove his tank destroyer nician Fourth Grade Tremblay courageously drove his tank destroyer against enemy armor enabling infantry troops to seize their objective. His unselfish disregard for his personal safety and devotion to duty

were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Massachusetts.

Technician Fifth Grade Theodore A Jett, 33391356, Field Artiliery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. When his tank destroyer was hit by enemy artiliery and set aftre, Technician Fifth Grade Jett, although wounded and severely shocked, evacuated three severely wounded members or his platoon while under heavy enemy machine gun fire and exploding ammunition. His great courage and unselfish disregard for his personal safety were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Maryland.

Sergeant Anthony J Ricciardo, 32058000, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 30 March 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. When the driver of the leading tank destroyer was mortally wounded, Sergeant Ricciardo aided in evacuating the man while under furious enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Then Sergeant Ricciardo courage-ously led his tank destroyer against enemy armor enabling infantry troops to seize their objective. His unselfish disregard for his personal safety and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

Private First Class Howard w Henry, 33129498, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. After his tank was hit by enemy artillery and set afire, Private Henry, although wounded and severely shocked evacuated three seriously wounded members or his platoon while under heavy enemy machine gun fire. Making a second trip, he evacuated the gun commander just before the ammunition began exploding. He then assisted in administering aid to the wounded before consenting to evacuation. His bravery and unselfish disregard for his personal safety reflect great credit on himself, his organization and the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Staff Sergeant Alfred J Lioi, 32003767, Field Artillery, Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic schievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 28 March 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. When the advance of the platoon was haited by a road block consisting of dummy mines covered by heavy enemy machine gun fire, Sergeant Lioi crawled over open terrain to the road block, examined it, and then directed the successful advance of the tank destroyers. His great courage and gallant actions enabled the platoon to accomplish its mission. Entered the service from New York.

Private William E Pueschel, 36691415, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 1 April 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Pueschel traversed 600 yards of open terrain to carry vital supplies to his platoon. Though continually exposed to intense enemy tank and artillery fire he made several trips throughout the day thereby

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contributing immeasurably to the combat successes of his platoon. His great courage and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Illinois.

Sergeant William P Visnich, 33418389, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 February 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. In an assault upon a strongly defended enemy position, Sergeant Visnich left the security of his steel turret and braved furious enemy small arms and mortar fire to direct the movements of his tank destroyer. He then went to the aid of his wounded platoon leader rendering valuable assistance until the objective was taken. His great courage and aggressive leadership were an inspiration to his men. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Staff Sergeant George A Bonacci, 32004912, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against

the enemy on 24 February 1945 in the vicinity of
, Germany. When the infantry was halted by intense enemy small arms and mortar fire, Sergeant Bonacci advanced with his section in the face of this terrific fire. Finding the route of approach impassable, Sergeant Bonacci, with utter disregard for his personal safety, left his tank destroyer and directed his section on foot along a new route of approach. His courage and inspirational leadership were highly instrumental in the taking of the objective. Entered the military service from New York.

Sergeant CarrolleHohensee, 34153355, Field Artillery,
(Tank Destroyer), Company C, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion,
for heroic achievement in connection with military operations
against the enemy on 24 February 1945 in the vicnity of
. Germany. When the advance upon an enemy stronghold
had been held up, Sergeant Hohensee left the security of his steel
turret to man the machine gun on the rear deck of his tank destroyer.
Disregarding the intense enemy small arms, machine gun and artillery
fire directed on his position he maintained a steady stream of machine
gun fire on enemy positions allowing the pinned down infantry to advance and gain their objective. Entered the military service from

Private First Class Amos E Coty, 31322254, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 19 March 1945 in the vicinity of Germany. During an intense enemy artillery barrage, Private Coty administered first aid to wounded comrades and organized litter squads to evacuate all wounded. His great courage and devotion to duty were directly responsible for saving many lives. Entered the military service from Maine.

Staff Sergeant Arthur E Archibald, 31034482, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. After driving through intense hostile fire to the center of an enemy held town, Sergeant Archibald exposed himself to furious enemy tank fire to direct infantrymen in dismounting his vehicle.

When the vehicle was knocked out, he joined the infantry troops in capturing the town and taking 200 prisoners.

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His gallant actions and courage were in the hisaest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Massachusetts.

### OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR

Sergeant William R Hooper, 34135364, Field Artillery, (Tank Destroyer), Company C, 544th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 24 March 1945 in the vicinity of , Germany. Exposing himself to intense enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, Sergeant Hooper manned the machine gun on his tank destroyer and brought effective and devastating fire upon the enemy so as to enable the infantrymen to advance and accomplish their mission. His great courage and devotion to duty were instrumental in the capture of an enemy stronghold. Entered the military service from Mississippi.

k. Photographs: Attached.

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For the Commanding Officer:

CARL H WIGGENHORN
Major, FA
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# MEDICAL DETACHMENT 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 339 US Army 30 May 1945

# CASUALTY LIST (May 1945)

Dy L	0.00	DIT DIOI (MA)	-2721	100	
<u>Name</u>	Co	Diagnosis	Date	Disposition	Honarko
Cleston L Chester Sgt 36553859	C	(HE) LV, head	23 Mar	Duty	Battle Casualty
Jacob & Lesner Pro 33494804	Ron	LV, chin; sprain, lt arm	24 Apr	Duty	Battle Injury
James C Lee T/5 38357716	Ron	LW, lt knee; sprain, lt knee	24 Apr	Duty,	Battle Injury
Cecil McCourt Pvt 13001004	В	Amnesia, recurrent	29 Apr	77 E.H.	Disease
Rugh J Gordon Pfc 35031717	•	WIA bomb W (mine) LW, rt upper lip, cont w neck, sl	1 May	Duty	Battle Casualty
William M Keesling 1st Lt 01179478	•	KIA	1 May	-	Battle Casualty
Artnur S Doctors Sgt 32693721	A	KIA'	1 May	•	Battle Casualty
Ploya G Sloan Pvt 37638743	A	KIA	1 May	• *	Battle Casualty
Andy Osko Cpl 33418337		KIA .	1 May		Battle Casualty
Charles J Coley 1/4 34148735	A	LV, chin	1 May	111 E.H.	B Injury
Bryant S Kelly T/5 by00114	C	Sprained ankle	1 May 4	5 111 E.H.	NB Injury
Hobert Green Prc 33339331	Ren	CW, rt shin ant mid 3rd,	2 May RTD	8 Clr	Battle Casualty
Philip M Kellener 2d Lt 02008630	Ron	PC, mandible, LW, min lower hip	2 May	s Clr	Battle Casualty
Pvt 36874090	Ron	LW, it shin,	2 May	8 Clr	Battle Casualty
Harold McCrery 1/4 33472259	C	Poss PS of 1t forearm, reil our M-10	3 May	8 Clr	NB Injury
Michael Choby	Med	GSW (pistol) LW, lt hand	3 May	8 Clr	MB Injury

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Name	Co	Diagnosis	į	Date	- <u>D</u>	sposition	BRATES
Anthony C Burch Pvt 37705125	В	U.R.I.		Hay Nay	8	Clr	Disease
Joseph J Urbanik Pfc 42048216	В	SIW GSW (pistol) Pen W, rt	4	May	8	Clr	MB Injury
Alexander Opalinak: Cpl 3911'15'15	ı c	Pain, lt knee (old wound)	5	May	8	Clr	Disease
Carl R Carlson Pfc 37090155	Нq	Scables	5	May	8	Clr	Disease
Thomas H Malloy S/Sgt 32114549	Hq	(pistol) Perf W, lt hand	6	May	8	Clr	NB Injury
1		& wrist, poss FS					
John W Irvine Sgt 34135662	Ren	Stomach complaint	6	Hay	8	Clr	Disease
Ephraim P Graham Lt Col 020838	Hq	LW, lt thumb & finger, lac tendon, lt thumb	7	Hay	8	Clr	MB Injury
Clarence A Box Prc 34871350	C	SIV	7	May		•	NB Injury
James P Mendelero Cpl 32066738	C	Anal fissure	8	May	8	Clr	Disease
Cipriano C Mongara Pro 35140426	z C	Conjunctivitis acute, mild	,	8 M	Ŋ	8 Clr	Disease
Thomas D Cline Pvt 39577208	Ren	FUO, Temp 99.6	B	May	8	Clr	Disease
Joseph L Maj T/5 36718344		GSW (pistol) Pen W, rt ankle	9	May	8	Clr	MB Injury

NATHANIEL BERG Captain, MC Surgeon

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