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(Submitted by Colonel W.F. Millice, FA, ABF Board Observer-MTO)

HEADQUARTERS SOUTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 484, United States Army

REPORT OF OPERATIONS FOR MONTH OF MAY 1945

The month opened with the Battalion attached to the 88th Infantry Division and further attached to the 752 Tank Bn. (operations only). Battalion G.P. located at 289892, "A" Company located at 071011, "B" Company located at 281106, "C" Company located at 484855, Rem. Company located at 280893, and Hqs. Company (Bn. Rear) located at 289934. Battalion driving north with the Division toward BORGIO and GARNUDA. The 88th Infantry Division protected the right flank and the 10th Mountain Division protected the left flank.

Battalion maintained liaison with 752 Tank Bn. Gas Bn. Platoon attached to each gun Company. Rem. minus vicinity Battalion G.P.

1 May 1945

"A" Company attached 350th Infantry Regiment, protected Division left flank, moved on parallel roads toward ASIAGO (071011). "B" Company, attached 351st Infantry Regiment, attacked north to help seize PRINOLANA and set up defenses and prepare to move northwest into BORGIO. Company engaged a convey of enemy vehicles and horse drawn carts, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing an unknown number of PW's. 1 MM wounded in action. Rem. Platoon, attached, captured 30 PW's and knocked out 1 machine gun. In this action 9 Americans, who had been in the hands of friendly partisans, were recaptured. "C" Company attached 349th Infantry Regiment helped seize GARNUDA and attacked north toward FELTRE. Armor of this task force was held up by a blown bridge. Company rear, following this task force, was engaged in a fire fight with the enemy vicinity of GARNUDA. Enemy was caught in a narrow street and engaged with cross fire of four cal. .50 machine guns and one 37 mm gun. Several casualties were inflicted on the enemy and numerous PW's taken who stated that they had never been under such a terrific concentration of fire. Combat efficiency of the Battalion remained very satisfactory. Results of the day's operations were the capture of over 50 PW's, knocking out 1 machine gun, and the recovery of 9 Americans. Companies assisted in the attacks of three regiments during the period.

2 MAY 1945

"A" Company moved north to assembly area vicinity ANZIN. "C" Company moved from FELTRE northwest through FOSCHATO to a point at 270179 where a bridge was blown. Enemy across the river was engaged and approximately 15 PW's were taken by the force. G.O. of Company, leading a by-pass with G.O., Company "A", 752 Tank Bn., took 195 PW's out of barracks vicinity PRESA, 272161. In the day's operations the Battalion accounted for at least 25 enemy dead and assisted in taking approximately 200 PW's before cessation of hostilities in Italy were announced.

RESTRICTED

3 May 1945

"A" Company with one platoon of Rm. Company attached remained vicinity ARSIE, preparing for the next move. "C" Company with one platoon of Rm. Company attached formed part of a ROT which moved toward BRENNER PASS to take up positions in that vicinity. Results of operations, Battalion was represented in ROT by one Company of TD's and one platoon of Rm. Company.

4 May 1945

"A" Company remained at ARSIE performing first echelon maintenance and awaiting further movement. "B" Company moved with the 851st Infantry Regiment toward TRENTO. Company in position at each end of LAGO DI CALDONAZZO. Disarming of German soldiers is taking place. "C" Company remained attached to 849th Infantry Regiment Combat Team, moved to BRESSANONE.

5 May 1945

Battalion remained in position preparing to move and performing first echelon maintenance.

6 May 1945

Battalion C.P. moved to 962685. "A" Company moved from 528172 to 045480. Balance of Battalion remained in position.

7 May 1945

Rm. Company moved from 162165 to 162600, Hq. Company (Rm. Rear) moved from 250940 to 962685. Remainder of Battalion, no change. Results of operations, Battalion continued to assist in rounding up of German PW's.

8 May 1945

Period was quiet. Battalion continued to assist in rounding up German PW's and equipment.

14 May 1945

"C" Company furnished a security guard for 700 SS troops and assisted in the capture of MAYER, cousin of RIBBENTROP.

15 May 1945

Day was quiet, Battalion remained in position performing first echelon maintenance and awaiting orders to move.

RESTRICTED

16 May 1945

"C" Company moved to MERANO, A-840192. Second Platoon given the mission of guarding redistribution Center (enemy) 1 mile west of MERANO. One platoon Rem. Company reinforced was furnished to guard convey of gold to ROMA.

17 May 1945

"B" Company, G.P. moved to vicinity RIVA, second platoon to ALDENA, third platoon remained at BOSHO. No other change in locations.

18 May to 26 May 1945

Period remained quiet. Companies performing maintenance, doing guard duty in towns and rounding up German PW's.

27 May 1945

Companies remained in position. "C" Company riot squad of 1 officer and 12 enlisted men assisted in the capture of BUCHARD, French Nazi Propaganda Minister.

28 May to 31 May 1945

Period was quiet, Companies continued with mission of rounding up German PW's. Battalion preparing to move to LAGO DA GARDA.

Resume of Action during recent operations:

16 April 1945 II Corps started their attack on BOLOGNA. Battalion fired more than 8,000 rounds in preparation for the attack. Battalion minus "C" Company attached to 34th Infantry Division. "C" Company remained attached to Legnane Group (Italian). On 19 April the enemy's defenses were breaking and friendly troops continued their advance. Entire Battalion moved to BOLOGNA 21 April 1945 and organized a perimeter defense. Battalion relieved from attached 34th Infantry Division and attached to 28th Infantry Division on 22 April 1945. "A" Company attached with one platoon of Rem. Co was attached to the 360th Inf Regt, "B" Co attached with one platoon of Rem. Co was attached to the 251st Inf Regt, and "C" Co attached with one platoon of Rem. Co was attached to the 349th Inf Regt. Moving rapidly northward, the enemy was in retreat and badly disorganized. The Battalion on the 23rd April 1945 assisted in the capture of approximately 9,000 PW's. Battalion reached the PO RIVER and set up AA defenses while awaiting river crossing. "B" Company crossed 25 April 1945 and supported 251st Infantry Regt in drive on VERONA. "C" Company in support of "A" Company 782 Tank Bn. drove into VICENZA during the morning of 26 April 1945 after a fire fight in which six friendly tanks were knocked out by bazookas. Seizing objective at river crossing just west of PONTANIVA, 28 April 1945, "A" Company destroyed numerous vehicles, killed approximately 70 enemy and assisted in capturing 50 PW's.

With the cessation of hostilities 2 May 1945 "C" Co with one platoon of Rem. Co attached formed part of a ROT which moved toward BRENNER PASS to occupy that vicinity.

RESTRICTED

Battalion assisted in guard duty in teams and rounding up and disarming German soldiers.

The period ended with the Battalion at LAKE GARDA expecting and awaiting movement orders to the United States or an active theater.

/s/ and /t/ HERBERT B. FOWLER
Major, FA (TD)
Commanding