

HEADQUARTERS
824TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Ft Jackson, S. C.
11 September 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History of 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion
for period of 01 June 1945 to Deactivation Date.

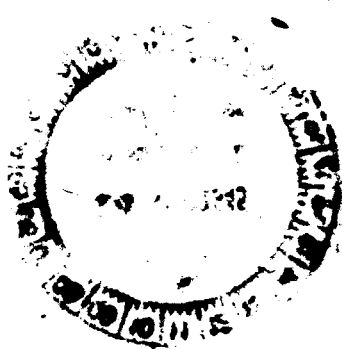
TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
Historical Section

1. Enclosed herewith battalion history of this organization
for the period of 01 June 1945 to Deactivation Date.

Philip J. Vander Zwiap
PHILIP J VANDER ZWIEP
Lt. Col., P. A.
Commanding

5 Incls:

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HEADQUARTERS
824TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Ft Jackson, S. C.
11 September 1945

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF BATTALION OPERATIONS
PERIOD OF 1 JUNE TO 11 SEPTEMBER 1945

The Battalion history from 1 June to it's deactivation on 11 September 1945 covers the post hostilities period of policing and occupying established areas in Austria, the movement from Austria to the United States for redeployment to the Pacific, and the period of deactivation once re-assembled at FORT JACKSON, S.C.

On 1 June 1945 the Battalion was engaged in preparation for re-deployment to the Pacific via the United States, the unit being a Category II unit. The Battalion CP was at RIETZ, Austria (Z4959) and the companies were assembled as follows: "A" Company at STAMS (Z4558), "B" Company at OBERHOFEN (Z5461), "C" Company at STAMS, Hq. Company at RIETZ and Reconnaissance Company at RIETZ, UNTERDORF (4959). 1 to 9 June was spent in normal occupational and garrison duties. On the 9th of June 1945 the 824th TD Bn. was relieved from assignment with the Seventh Army as of 1200 hours and assigned to the Third Army as of 1201 hours, 9 June 1945.

15 June. A formation was held and the 28th Article of War was read. Advance party to the United States left for CAMP LUCKY STRIKE at ST. VALERY EN CAUX, France, per Ltr AG 370.5 OPGC (28) Hq. ETOUSA, Subject: "Movement Orders", dtd 5 June 1945. Advance party to the United States consisted of 3 Officers and 7 Enlisted Men left via motor vehicles at 1305 hours, arriving at 219 Engr. Depot at EHINGEN, Germany (via ULM) at 1830 hours. Distance traveled was 164 miles.

16 June. Detail left to turn in ordnance vehicles and equipment at LEMANS and FONTAINBLEAU, France. Advance party left EHINGEN, Germany, at 0700 hours and crossed the Rhine River at MANNHEIM-LUDWIGSHAFEN at 1137 hours, crossed the France-Prussian border vic. SARREBRUCKEN at 1447 hours and arrived at the Transient Mess and Quarters at VERDUN, France at 2017 hours. Distance traveled 332 miles.

17 June. Detail left to turn in halftracks at METZ, France, and HOFSTADE, Belgium. Advance party left VERDUN, France, and proceeded to CAMP LUCKY STRIKE, vicinity of ST. VALERY EN CAUX, France (L980641), at 0730 hours and arrived at destination at 1705 hours. Distance traveled 259 miles.

18 June. Main body left RIETZ, Austria, by motor vehicles at 0930 hours to proceed to GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany, arriving there at 1145 hours. Distance traveled by motor convoy 31 miles. Entrained at GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN 1310 hours for ST. VALERY EN CAUZ, France. A separate convoy of organizational vehicles left for ST. VALERY EN CAUZ, France, at 0710 hours from RIETZ, Austria, crossed Austrian-German border at (6773) 0840 hours, and closed at bivouac area vic. ULM (655795) at 1605 hours. Crossed Danube River vic. ULM 1515 hours. Distance traveled 165 miles.

19 June. Left ULM by motor convoy at 0645 hours, crossing the Rhine River from MANNHEIM to LUDWIGSHAFEN, Germany, at 1130 hours. Convoy closed at Army bivouac area #2 at KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, at 1600 hours. Distance traveled 128 miles. The train by this time was at WEST KARLSRUHE, Germany at 2400 hours.

20 June. Motor convoy left KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, at 0640 hours. Crossed the Franco-German border at SAARBRUCKEN (458710) at 1120 hours. Closed at bivouac area at METZ (845572) at 1650 hours. Distance traveled 167 miles. The train by this time crossed the Rhine River vic. STRASSBOURG, between 0400 and 0500 hours, and arrived at DIJON, France.

21 June. Motor convoy left METZ, France, at 0620 hours and closed at SOISSONS, France, at 1750 hours. Distance traveled 182 miles. The train left DIJON, France, at 2100 hours enroute to PARIS, France.

22 June. Motor convoy left SOISSONS, France, at 0620 hours and arrived at ST. VALERY EN CAUZ, France, (L910610), CAMP LUCKY STRIKE at 1600 hours. Distance traveled 131 miles. The train by this time had reached the outskirts of PARIS, France, by 1020 hours and left for CAMP LUCKY STRIKE at 1845 hours.

24 June. Train arrived at ST. VALERY EN CAUZ, France, at 0130 hrs.

23 June. Train arrived at ROUEN, France, at 0430 hours and left at 1600 hours for CAMP LUCKY STRIKE.

25-29 June. Packing and crating of equipment. Final ETO morning report made on 29 June. On 27 June Advance Party to the United States left CAMP LUCKY STRIKE at 0900 hours and went by convoy to LE HAVRE, France, and boarded the transport "SS MARINE DRAGON" at 1430 hours. Distance traveled 35 miles. Advance Party on board the "SS MARINE DRAGON" sailed from LE HAVRE at 1045 hours on 28 June, destination the United States of America.

30 June. Aboard ship "SS THOMAS CRESAP" in LE HAVRE HARBOR, France, were Hq. Co., "C" Co., and Rcn. Co. Left CAMP LUCKY STRIKE at 1600 hours and traveled by motor convoy into LE HAVRE, France. Distance traveled 45 miles. After loading into LCT's the men were put aboard by 2030 hours.

30 June (contd) "B" Company and "A" Company entrucked and left CAMP LUCKY STRIKE at 1625 hours and arrived in LE HAVRE, France, at 1950 hours. Distance traveled by convoy 30 miles. Troops boarded ship "SS MOHN HOWLAND" at 2030 hours

1 July. The "SS THOMAS CRESAP" moved out of LE HAVRE, harbor, at 0600 hours with it's destination the United States of America. The "SS JOHN HOWLAND" sailed from LE HAVRE at 0630 hours with its destination the United States of America.

2-12 July. Spent aboard the "SS THOMAS CRESAP" relaxing, orientation talks and amusements were the order of the day.

2-13 July. were spent aboard the "SS JOHN HOWLAND" with amusements, short orientation talks and personal affairs the order of the day. On 5 July the Advance Party aboard the "SS MARINE DRAGON" arrived at New York Port of Embarkation, sailed up the Hudson River and docked at PIER-MONT, New York at 1147 hours and proceeded by meter convoy to Camp Shanks, New York, arriving there by 1500 hours. 26 hours later all personnel had been processed and were on their way to redistribution centers to receive recuperation leaves and furloughs.

12 July. The "SS THOMAS CRESAP" arrived at New York Port of Embarkation docking at 1200 hours and group left for Camp Shanks, N.Y. at 1700 hours for permanent change of station per par. 1 Movement Orders Ltr AG 370.5 OpGC (28) Hq ETOUSA dtd 5 June 1945. The personnel of Hq., "C" and Rcn. Companies were processed and shipped out to their respective reception and redistribution centers within 24 hours for recuperation leaves and furloughs of 30 days. Fort Jackson, S.C. was named as the reassembly station.

13 July. The "SS JOHN HOWLAND" landed at New York Port of Embarkation at 0700 hours and the personnel of "A" and "B" Companies were entrucked and convoyed to Camp Shanks, N.Y., and were enroute to their redistribution centers for 30 day recuperation leaves and furloughs. An advance detachment carrying records left for Fort Jackson, S.C. by rail, leaving Camp Shanks at 1730 hours on 15 July 1945 and arriving at Fort Jackson, S.C., at 1430 hours 16 July 1945 per par. 16 SO 184 NYPE, Cp Shanks, N.Y. This detachment deposited the records and left on leaves and furloughs on 17 July 1945.

17 July. Entire organization on Temporary Duty and on recuperation leaves and furloughs. 1st Lt. DONALD W BURGESS (Cav) O-1018964 was atched and jd p Hq 15th Armd Gp and assumed command. The 824th TD Bn. was relieved from assignment from Cp Shanks, N.Y. and New York Port of Embarkation and assigned AGF and 2nd Army per par 16 SO 184 NYPE Cp Shanks, NY.

18 July-10 August. All personnel on Temporary Duty on recuperation leaves and furloughs.

Hq. 824 TD Bn., Sub: Narrative Account of Battalion Operations (contd)

11 August. Capt. CARL P PALMER (FA(TD) O-1167150 commanding the Advance Detachment returned from temporary duty to duty and assumed command; 1st Lt. DONALD W BURGESS (Cav) O-1018964 reld atchd and returned Hq 15th Armd Gp Ft Jackson, SC.

11-18 August. Advance Party engaged in setting up housecleaning cleaning up the area and drawing supplies. On 18 August a TWX was received from CG II Army notifying the organization that it would be deactivated.

19-28 August. Men assigned to the Battalion reported back for duty from Temporary Duty and were engaged in normal garrison duties. Lt. Col. PHILLIP J VANDER ZWIEP (FA) O-287932 reported for duty and assumed command on 28 August 1945.

28 August-Deactivation Date 11 September 1945. Battalion engaged in reassigning men, equipping them and shipping them to their new stations.

HEADQUARTERS
824TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Ft Jackson, S.C.
7 September 1945

ORIGINAL UNIT

- (1) Designation - 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed)
- (2) Date of Organization - 10 August 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization - Camp Gruber, Oklahoma
- (4) Authority for Organization - Headquarters, Third Army
General Order Number 81
dated 27 July 1942.
- (5) Sources from which personnel were obtained -
Draftees and transfers from other organizations.
- (6) Reorganized - Battalion converted to a self-propelled unit.
General Order No. 90, Headquarters Seventh Army, 11 March 45.

ANNEX "B"

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Ft Jackson, SC
10 September 1945

STRENGTH - Commissioned and Enlisted

- (1) At beginning of period* - 34 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers
601 Enlisted Men
- (2) Net increase during period* - 0 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers
16 Enlisted men (RTU)
18 Enlisted men (Repl)
- (3) Net decrease during period* - 5 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers
615 Enlisted men
(615 EM transferred to various reception and re-distribution centers)
- (4) At end of period* - 25 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers,
0 Enlisted Men

*Period from 1 June 1945 to 2400 Hours, 10 September 1945

ANNEX "C"

**HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

**Ft Jackson, SC
10 September 1945**

**LOSSES IN ACTION FROM 1 June to 2400 Hours, 10 September 1945
OFFICERS and ENLISTED MEN**

KILLED

None

WOUNDED

None

ANNEX "D"

HEADQUARTERS
824th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

St Jackson, MO
11 September 1945

AWARDS

Period - 1 June to 11 September 1945

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

CO No. 172, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 5 June 1945

Technician Fourth Grade Vincent T. Mues, 32698853, Field Artillery, Company "A", 824th TD Bn. For gallantry in action. During the period 31 December 1944 to 1 January 1945, near Hostenback, Germany, Sergeant Mues, half-track driver, informed of imminent counterattack, was ordered to withdraw his vehicle. As he moved to the rear the vehicles were subjected to an intense barrage of enemy mortar fire. Sergeant Mues maneuvered his vehicle through the fire successfully but the vehicle behind him was struck by mortar fire and put out of action temporarily. Sergeant Mues left his own vehicle in cover, went to the road junction and amid a hail of enemy fire drove the stalled vehicle to safety. He continued to drive it for the remainder of the night from position to position under constant enemy machine gun, small arms, artillery, and mortar fire thereby saving the gun and its crew. Sergeant Mues' actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Woodhaven, New York.

Private Edwin J. Fiedler, 36780719, Field Artillery, Company "A", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 30 November 1944, in the vicinity of Erwiller, France, Private Fiedler, a cannoneer of a three-inch towed gun, while placing his gun in position was subjected to an intense barrage of enemy artillery. Having had no time in which to seek protection or dig in, casualties were mounting rapidly. Observing a wounded comrade lying exposed on the open terrain Private

in an

Fiedler dashed to the side of the wounded man and carried him 75 yards through deep and slippery mud under constant enemy fire to reach an evacuation vehicle. Private Fiedler's actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Belleville, Illinois.

Sergeant Joseph V. Harte, 32698951, Field Artillery, Company "C", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 14 April 1945, in the vicinity of Ober Heinriet, Germany, Sergeant Harte and his crew were subjected to intense enemy artillery fire which blasted the wall of a house down on them. Despite injuries to the crew, Sergeant Harte, himself injured, directed the extrication of the vehicle in order that they would be able to accompany infantry units going forward to repulse a counterattack. Although the guns were damaged beyond their ability to fire, Sergeant Harte drove his vehicle forward and succeeded in the repulsion of the enemy's proposed counterattack. Sergeant Harte's actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Brooklyn, New York.

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (Cont'd)

GO No. 140, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 5 June 1945

Corporal Richard F. Treccartin, 32690148, Field Artillery, Company "C", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 14 April 1945, near Ober Heinriet, Germany, when enemy fire caused the collapse of a wall on a destroyer wounding two crew members, Corporal Treccartin ran 100 yards, disregarding the enemy small arms fire, to secure an aid man. Returning, he along with two crew members, got the destroyer into action and greatly assisted the infantry in repelling a counterattack. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: St. Albans, New York.

Sergeant Nicholas Simchock, 32689988, Field Artillery, Company "C", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 7 April 1945, in Heilbronn, Germany, Sergeant Simchock, Tank Destroyer Commander, disregarding the intense enemy fire, reconnoitered for a position to fire at enemy infantry. Although the position was greatly exposed and under artillery fire, Sergeant Simchock and his crew destroyed the buildings which the enemy was using as a strongpoint, thus enabling our infantry to advance and take the block. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: St. Albans, New York.

GO No. 164, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 2 June 1945

Sergeant Anthony W. Haglund, 32698443, Field Artillery, Company "C", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 4 April 1945, in the vicinity of Unter Eischenheim, Germany, Sergeant Haglund using his tank destroyer to draw enemy fire in order to ascertain the source for advancing infantry elements moved his vehicle into the open, immediately drawing a barrage of enemy machine gun and self-propelled weapon fire. Without hesitation he opened fire with his 76 millimeter gun and fired 11 rounds directly into the enemy strongpoint. Investigation showed that Sergeant Haglund had destroyed three enemy machine gun nests and had crippled a self-propelled gun. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Brooklyn, New York.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

GO No. 143, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 23 May 1945

FIRST LIEUTENANT BRUCE E. HAMIL, 01823437, Field Artillery, Company "C", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For heroic achievement in action. During the period 3 December 1944 to 15 April 1945 in France and Germany, LIEUTENANT HAMIL skillfully and carefully made reconnaissances of enemy territory for all missions. Always at the lead of his men, no matter how dangerous the mission, LIEUTENANT HAMIL added immeasurably to the successes of the platoon. In many instances during particularly savage fighting he moved from destroyer to destroyer in order to be assured that the maximum in efficiency and fire power was being expended. His heroic actions were a source of inspiration to those about him and reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence:

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Con't)

Chicago, Illinois

GO No. 162, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 2 June 1945

Technical Sergeant Robert N. Lemstrom, 32698794, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 1 January to 7 April 1945, in France and Germany. Residence: Long Island, New York.

Corporal Vincent J. Pellegrino, 32700187, Field Artillery, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945, in France and Germany. Residence: Ozone Park, New York.

First Sergeant George H. Rudquist, 39301971, Field Artillery, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945 in France and Germany. Residence: Camas, Washington.

Corporal George J. Nowicki, 32698496, Field Artillery, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945, in France and Germany. Residence: College Point, New York.

Technical Sergeant William J. Moser, 36112466, Field Artillery, Headquarters Company, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 12 March to 6 May 1945, in France and Germany. Residence: Mount Clemens, Michigan.

Technical Sergeant Leo E. Inzel, 37039864, Field Artillery, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945, in France and Germany. Residence: Dubuque, Iowa.

GO No. 163, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 2 June 1945

Sergeant Earl E. Vosburgh, 32668445, Field Artillery, Company "A", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For heroism in action. On the night of 31 December 1944, the towed three-inch gun platoon, in which Sergeant Vosburgh was a gun commander, was in position on the outpost line on the Sarre River, at Hostenbach, France. Enemy mortar fire hurled Sergeant Vosburgh to the ground at a road junction, as the platoon moved out on a delaying movement. By his leadership in voice and action, he dispelled the shock of his squad maintaining control of his squad as an effective unit for further operations. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Canajoharie, New York.

Private First Class William J. Arden, 01167266, Field Artillery, Company "A", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For heroic achievement in action. On 24 April 1945, Lieutenant Arden's Tank Destroyer Platoon, attached to a rifle company, was attempting to take the village of Gagerberg, Germany. He proceeded down a bare ridge in full view of the enemy in the town, firing his .50 caliber machine gun from the exposed mount, and at the time directing the fire of the two 76 millimeter guns of the

same

AWARDS OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Con't)

Tank Destroyers. LIEUTENANT WARREN led the action in which two enemy machine guns were destroyed, an enemy flak wagon was forced to retire and the village captured. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

GO No. 168, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 4 June 1945

CAPTAIN EMANUEL A OLSON, 0362408, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 1 December 1944 to 30 April 1945, in France and Germany. Residence: Lincoln, Nebraska.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT A. SCHABEL, 01167204, Field Artillery, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945 in France and Germany. Residence: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM R. LACKEY, 01822807, Field Artillery, Company "C", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 1 December 1944 to 7 May 1945 in France and Germany. Residence: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

FIRST LIEUTENANT LAWSON L. PARSONS, 01825343, Cavalry, Headquarters, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 6 December 1944 to 8 May 1945 in France and Germany and Austria. Residence: Hingham, Massachusetts.

FIRST LIEUTENANT PUGHAM P. BLUNT, 01824846, Infantry, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945 in France and Germany. Residence: Milton, Massachusetts.

FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE H. HAMMEL, 01822795, Field Artillery, Company "B", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 26 November 1944 to 6 May 1945 in France and Germany. Residence: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

GO No. 169, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 5 June 1945

Staff Sergeant Lyle F. Smith, 32668347, Field Artillery, Company "A", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 23 December 1944 to 30 January 1945 in France. Residence: Rome, New York.

GO No. 175, Hqs 103 Inf Div, 8 June 1945

Staff Sergeant Leo H. Siewers, 35253567, Field Artillery, Company "A", 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion. For heroic achievement in action. On 31 December 1944 near Hostenbach, France, during an impending enemy counter-attack, Sergeant Siewers split his platoon in two sections and took command of one section. During the night despite enemy attacks, shell fire and broken communications, he kept his section intact by his cool judgement and action. Ordered to fall back to previously selected positions, he made the necessary withdrawal until contact with his platoon leader and company was made. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Vincennes, Indiana.

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Con't)

AO No. 90, Hqs 100th Inf Div, 30 April 1945

John R. Mohr, 32697898, Sergeant, 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 9 January 1945, in the vicinity of Bettviller, France. When one of his gun crew was seriously wounded by a concentration of hostile artillery fire, Sergeant Mohr, gun commander, quickly administered first aid, walked two hundred yards over an exposed area, obtained a vehicle and drove the wounded man through artillery fire to a point where he was met by company aid men. The prompt medical attention given has assured the recovery of the wounded man. Sergeant Mohr's heroism under fire is a source of great inspiration to his men. Entered the military service from Glendale, New York.

The above EM is a member of "B" Company, 824th Tank Destroyer Bn.