

HEADQUARTERS  
893D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 758, U.S. Army

25 October 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, 8 May 1945 - 30 September 1945.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 3d Infantry Division.

ATTN : AC of S, G-2.

1. In compliance with letter, Headquarters 3d Inf Div., dtd 15 October 1945. Subj: Reports of Operations, the following report for the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion is submitted:

Employment of U.S. Forces:

C.P. Locations for the period:

Battalion C.P.

Frohnhausen, Germany	WG 400420	8 May 1945 - 13 May 1945
Schwarzenborn, Germany	WH 190570	14 May 1945 - 9 July 1945
Gieselwerder, Germany	RC 258350	10 July 1945- 30 Sept 1945

Headquarters Company C.P.

Frohnhausen, Germany	WG 400420	8 May 1945 - 13 May 1945
Schwarzenborn, Germany	WH 190570	14 May 1945 - 9 July 1945
Gieselwerder, Germany	RC 258350	10 July 1945-30 Sept 1945

Company "A" C.P.

Langenstein, Germany	WG 862491	8 May 1945 - 13 May 1945
Ziegenhain, Germany	WH 089582	14 May 1945 - 4 June 1945
Oberaula, Germany	WH 222525	5 June 1945 - 9 July 1945
Gottsburen, Germany	RC 223328	9 July 1945 -30 Sept 1945

Company "B" C.P.

Mandern, Germany	WH027818	8 May 1945 - 13 May 1945
Leimsfeld, Germany	WH 087617	14 May 1945 -
Schwarzenborn, Germany	WH 202585	15 May 1945 - 9 July 1945
Gieselwerder, Germany	RC 258350	9 July 1945 -30 Sept 1945

Company "C" C.P.

Rennerrod, Germany	WG 235230	8 May 1945 - 12 May 1945
Oberaula, Germany	WH 225524	13 May 1945 - 14 May 1945
Schwarzenborn, Germany	WH 178577	15 May 1945 - 9 July 1945
Gottstreu, Germany	RC 283328	10 July 1945 -30 Sept 1945

Res. Company C.P.

Frohnhauser, Germany	WG 396418	8 May 1945 - 13 May 1945
Treysa, Germany	WH 022577	14 May 1945 - 25 May 1945
Schwarzenborn, Germany	WH 190570	26 May 1945 - 2 July 1945
Gottsburen, Germany	RC 222328	3 July 1945 -30 Sept 1945

Commanding Officers for the Period:

893d Tank Destroyer Battalion, Commanding Officer:  
8 May 1945 - 24 Sept 1945 Lt. Col. Henry C. Kerlin  
25 Sept 1945 - 30 Sept 1945 Major Robert O. Larimer

Commanding Officers for the Period (Cont'd):

Headquarters Company, 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

8 May 1945 - 23 May 1945	Capt. Eugene H. Perry
24 May 1945 - 28 July 1945	1st Lt. John R. Geilker
29 July 1945 - 24 Aug 1945	Capt. Merle E. Ward
25 Aug 1945 - 4 Sept 1945	1st Lt. William A. Prentice
5 Sept 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	1st Lt. George VanHazel

Company "A", 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

8 May 1945 - 7 July 1945	Capt. Robert Walker
8 July 1945 - 8 Sept 1945	Capt. Donald S. McGowan
9 Sept 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	1st Lt. Norman L. Germanow

Company "B", 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

8 May 1945 - 18 June 1945	Capt. Jack W. Fuller
19 June 1945 - 26 Sept 1945	Capt. Raymond J. Blackwell
27 Sept 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	1st Lt. David T. Brewster

Company "C", 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

8 May 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	Capt. Louis G. Thompson, Jr.
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Rec. Company, 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

8 May 1945 - 28 July 1945	Capt. August D. Corsalini
29 July 1945 - 4 Sept 1945	Capt. Vasco E. Fenili
5 Sept 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	1st Lt. Robert H. Taylor

Medical Detachment, 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

8 May 1945 - 28 July 1945	Capt. Samuel W. Shabler
29 July 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	Capt. Clarence E. Ash

Changes in Attachments:

8 May 1945 - 15 June 1945	Assigned to Ninth Army
15 June 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	Assigned to Seventh Army
8 May 1945 - 11 May 1945	Attached to 78th Infantry Division
11 May 1945 - 10 July 1945	Further attached to 309th Infantry Regt.
10 July 1945 - 30 Sept 1945	Attached to 78th Infantry Division

Changes in Assigned Duties and Missions:

On 8 May 1945, the battalion was attached to the 78th Infantry Division and was assisting the 78th Infantry Division's security guard and patrol duties.

Headquarters Company and Reconnaissance Company were not engaged in guard duty and were following company training schedules.

Company "A" was attached to the 309th Infantry Regt. and had one platoon performing guard duty on an airstrip in the vicinity of Gleimham, Germany. The other two platoons were performing patrol duties in the sector of the 309th Infantry Regt.

Company "B" was attached to the 310th Infantry Regt. and the entire Company was occupied with security guard and patrol activities in the sector assigned to the 310th Infantry Regiment.

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Report of Operations, 8 May 1945 - 30 September 1945 (Cont'd)

Changes in Assigned Duties and Missions: (Cont'd)

Company "C" was attached to the 311th Infantry Regiment and the entire company was engaged in performing patrol activities in that sector.

On 14 May 1945, Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company moved to the vicinity of Schwarzenborn, Germany in preparation for the Battalion taking over responsibility of the guarding and administration of Internment Camp No. 93 located near Schwarzenborn. The camp was then being run by the 98 3d Field Artillery Battalion.

On 15 May 1945, Companies "B" and "C", 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion moved into the Schwarzenborn area and the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved the 903d FA Battalion of all responsibility at Internment Camp No. 93. Company "A" and Reconnaissance Company 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion took over the guard posts and patrol duties formerly had by Companies "A", "B", and "C" in the vicinity of Ziegenhain, Germany.

On 17 May 1945, the towns of Allendorf, (H039624) was searched by two Officers and 25 enlisted men. This was a spot check for weapons, but none were found.

On the same day two Officers and 25 enlisted men searched the town of Bittershausen (H 023603) for weapons. None were found in the town, but three Polish Displaced Persons were apprehended in the woods near the edge of town. The Poles were armed with German Mauser rifles which were confiscated and the Poles turned in to the Military Government Displaced Persons' Camp at Ziegenhain (H 069881).

On 24 May 1945, the 1st Platoon of Company "A" moved to Schwarzenborn to help with the guard mission at Internment Camp No. 93. There was no change in the guard mission of the rest of Company "A" due to the loss of one platoon.

On 26 May 1945, the 1st Platoon of Company "A" was relieved of guard mission at Schwarzenborn and returned to Company "A" control in the vicinity of Ziegenhain. Reconnaissance Company was relieved of its guard mission and responsibility for its sector by Company "C", 738th Tank Battalion. Reconnaissance Company moved into the vicinity of Schwarzenborn to assist in the guarding and administration of Internment Camp No. 93.

On 29 May 1945, a foot patrol of two Officers and 33 enlisted men from Reconnaissance Company screened the towns of Christenrode (H 166544), and Friedigerode (H 220545) and the woods between the two towns. No weapons, persons with improper credentials, or suspicious persons were found. A platoon of Company "A" made a spot check for weapons in the Displaced Persons Camps in Ziegenhain. No weapons were found.

On 30 May 1945 Memorial Day services were held for the 893d TD Battalion at the Camp Theatre, Internment Camp No. 93.

On 1 June 1945, one platoon from Company "B", one Platoon from Company "C", and one platoons from Reconnaissance Company were moved into Ziegenhain where they were assigned to the mission of guarding Ninth Army Stockade No. 1. The stockade was the responsibility of Company "A" and contained about 275 American Soldiers awaiting trial.



Destroyer Battalion, 25 October 1945  
 Report of Operations, 8 May 1945 - 30 September 1945 (Cont'd)

Changes in Assigned Duties and Missions(Cont'd):

On 5 June 1945 elements of the 738th Tank Battalion assumed responsibility for all installations then being guarded by Company "A" 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion. Company "A" moved to the vicinity of Oberaula, Germany and began assisting in the operation and control of Internment Camp No. 93. The three platoons from Companies "B", "C" and Reconnaissance Company were relieved of the Ninth Army Blockade No. 1 at Ziegenhain and rejoined their respective Companies in the vicinity of Schwarzenborn.

The 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved of responsibility for Landkreis Ziegenhain (less Internment Camp No. 93) as of 14 June 1945. The cannon and Anti Tank companies, 309th Infantry Regiment had been attached to the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion for operations only. They were detached from 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion as of 14 June 1945.

The period from 14 June 1945 until the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from Internment Camp No. 93, 9 July 1945 was spent in guarding and administration of Internment Camp No. 93 and in following a training schedule insofar as practicable. Practice for AGF Physical Fitness Test and small arms firing were among the things accomplished. The small arms firing was for the purpose of selecting teams to compete against higher headquarters teams as well as to make the individual soldier more proficient with his T/E weapon.

On 26 June 1945 all of the M-10 Tank Destroyers were turned in to 541st Ordnance Collecting Company, and on the next day, 27 June 1945, the Battalion received 35 M-36 Tank Destroyers from the 703d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Training, maintenance, and repairs was conducted on the new vehicles. The men seemed to take quite an interest in the new vehicle and especially in the new 90mm gun which most of them had never seen before. The Battalion contemplated moving to an area where the guard mission would not be extremely heavy and more training could be accomplished. The new area decided upon was in the vicinity of Gieselwerder, Germany.

On 3 July 1945, Reconnaissance Company moved to its new location at Gottsburen, Germany and on 9 July 1945 the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved of responsibility for Internment Camp No. 93, Schwarzenborn, Germany by elements of the 3d Infantry Division. The Battalion (less Reconnaissance Company) moved to new locations in the vicinity of Gieselwerder, Gottstreu, Gottsburen, Germany and initiated readjustment of personnel and training to fit the Battalion for the Category to which it had been assigned (Category IID).

The period from 10 July 1945 to 10 September 1945 was spent as scheduled in the preparation of the battalion for return to the United States and probable shipment to the Pacific Theater as a Category IID unit. Training during the period included firing of all personnel on the 90mm gun, rocket launcher, hand grenades, 30 and 50 caliber machine guns and individual weapons.



Destroyer Battalion, 25 October 1945  
 Report of Operations, 8 May 1945 - 30 September 1945 (Cont'd)

Changes in Assigned Duties and Missions(Cont'd):

On 10 September 1945 the Category of the Battalion was changed from II-D to Category I-F.

From 10 September 1945 to 30 September 1945 the Battalion was engaged in readjustment of personnel for the new category to which they had been assigned. A training schedule which would better fit the men for occupational duties was initiated and followed. There was a small security guard to maintain and the towns in which the companies were quartered were patrolled nightly.

Disposition of Troops:

At the beginning of the period:

	Assigned Strength	T/O Strength
Officers	32	35
Warrant Officers	1	2
Enlisted Men	596	607

At the end of the period:

Officers	25	35
Warrant Officers	0	2
Enlisted Men	502	607



Redeployment:

28 May 1945 - 1 enlisted man redeployed to the United States through the 3d Reinforcement Depot.

31 May 1945 - 13 enlisted men redeployed to the United States through the 16th Reinforcement Depot.

8 June 1945 - 1 enlisted man redeployed to the United States through the 14th Reinforcement Depot.

15 June 1945 - 12 enlisted men redeployed to the United States through the 14th Reinforcement Depot.

18 June 1945 - 11 enlisted men redeployed to the United States through the 14th Reinforcement Depot.

18 June 1945 - 113 enlisted men transferred to the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 2 enlisted men transferred to the 740 Tank Battalion, readjustment of personnel.

5 July 1945 - 17 enlisted men with ASR scores of 85 and above transferred to Hq 153d Field Artillery Battalion for redeployment to the United States.

17 July 1945 - 26 enlisted men redeployed to the United States through the 14th Reinforcement Depot.

21 July 1945 - 153 Enlisted men, with ASR scores of 85 and above transferred to the 703d Tank Destroyer Battalion for redeployment to the United States. 8 Class "D" enlisted men transferred to the 3d Infantry Division for redeployment.

1st Tank Destroyer Battalion, 25 October 1945

Report of Operations, 8 May 1945 - 30 September 1945 (Cont'd)

Redeployment (Cont'd):

28 July 1945 - 25 Officers with ASR scores of 85 and above transferred to the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion for redeployment to the United States. 7 enlisted men with ASR scores of 85 and above redeployed to the United States, transferred to the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

24 August 1945 - 2 Officers with ASR scores of 85 and above redeployed to the United States.

29 August 1945 - 1 enlisted man redeployed to the United States through the 19th Reinforcement Depot.

31 August 1945 - 5 enlisted men over 38 years old transferred to the 7th Armored Division for redeployment to the United States.

4 September 1945 - 289 enlisted men and 5 officers with ASR scores of 85 and above transferred to the 7th Armored Division for redeployment to the United States.

17 September 1945 - 12 enlisted men over 35 years old redeployed to the United States through the 3d Reinforcement Depot.

24 September 1945 - 151 enlisted men with ASR scores of 62 and above V-J transferred to the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion for redeployment to the United States. 10 Officers with ASR scores of 85 and above V-J transferred to the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion for redeployment to the United States. One of the above was a Warrant Officer.

During the above redeployment there was a constant influx of men as well as the above men and officers being transferred out. The Battalion assigned strength of men and officers was depleted in the following numbers during the period:

Enlisted Men	a net loss of 294
Officers	a net loss of 7
Warrant Officers	a net loss of 1



The above transfers left the Battalion at approximately 50% understrength.

Policies and Acts Affecting Displaced Persons:

Displaced persons have been hired by the Battalion from time to time for such duties as kitchen police, barracks orderlies for Officers quarters, cleanup details, etc. They have, as a whole, proved to be good workers and seem to have made an honest effort to do the things expected of them to the best of their ability. They have at all times been given preference over the Germans when work details were needed.

Relations with the Civil population:

a. De-Nazification: Throughout the period there have been various times when various individuals of the civil population have been suspected of adhering to the principles of Nazism and certain civilians holding offices have been suspected of discriminating against non-party members.

Destroyer Battalion, 25 October 1945

Report of Operations, 8 May 1945 - 30 September 1945 (Cont'd)

Relations with the Civil Population(Cont'd):

All of these individuals have been investigated by the officials of the CIC and where warranted, they have been removed from office or dealt with as was deemed necessary. All suspected tendencies toward Nazism that have come to the attention of the Battalion have been investigated and appropriate or necessary action taken when needed.

b. Measures for maintenance of law and order:

Burgomasters of the towns occupied or within the area of responsibility of the Battalion have been allowed and encouraged to use their own systems, under proper supervisions, of maintaining law and order. Close liaison has been maintained with the civilian agencies and any cases that can not be handled by them have been taken over by the occupying forces. Emphasis has been placed on the civilian populace working out their own solutions where ever possible thereby giving them a chance to become self sufficient as soon as possible in working out the answers to their problems.

Security guards and patrols have been placed in operation where and when needed. Patrols have made constant daily checks to see that proper law and order are being maintained.

c. Relations between U.S. Forces and the Civil population:

The relations of the U.S. Troops and the civil population have been very good in most cases. A few of the civilians seem to resent the presence of U.S. Troops, but the majority of the civilians are polite and cooperative. There is very little if any animosity between the civilians and the U.S. Troops.

All U.S. Troops have been very friendly to the children especially and have in most cases been a good influence on the German children. Children have been loaned athletic equipment and instructed in American games.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

  
*Levi J. McNeill, Jr.*  
LEVI J. MC NEILL, Jr.,  
Capt., 893d T. D. Bn.,  
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