HEADQUARTERS 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 758 US ARMY 13 August 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Operations (11 May - 1 August 1945).

Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division, APO 3, US ARMY. (Attn: AC of S, G-2)

The following Report of Operations for the period 11 May 1945 to 1 August 1945 is hereby submitted in accordance with Letter, Headquarters 3d Infantry Division, Subject: "Reports of Operations", dated 3 August 1945.

- a. Original Unit Self-propelled Tank Destroyer Battalion, activated 15 December 1941, operating under T/O & E 18-25, with changes.
- b. Changes in Organization None.
- c. Strength Commissioned and Enlisted.

 - (2) Net increase for period

(3) Net decrease for period

(4) Strength at end of period

d. Stations:

Station: SCHWERIN, GERMANY (T 436658)

At the beginning of period Date of departure - 2 June 1945

Station: GIESELWERDER, GERMANY (C 256349)

Date of arrival - 2 June 1945 Date of departure - 3 July 1945

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ESCHWEGE, GERMANY (H 614897) Station:

Date of arrival - 3 July 1945 Station at the end of the period

- Marches: (See Appendix No. 1) e.
- f. Campaigns: Not applicable
- Battles: Not applicable g.
- Commanding Officers during the period: h.

Bn. Comdr: 11 May-4 July 11 May-4 July Major EDWARD R. GARTON 4 July-31 July Lt.Col. EPHRAIM F. GRAHAM, JR.

C O, Hq Co: 11 May-24 May 25 May-21 July 22July-31 July Major HARRY L. GODSHALL, JR. 1st Lt. CHARLES P. DODDS Capt. HAROLD L. HOFFER

C O. Co. A: 11 May-21 July Capt. JAMES C. WILLIAMS 21 July-31 July Capt. LEVI J. McNEILL, JR.

C O, Co. B: Capt. GERALD L. HOFFER

C O. Co. C: 11 May-28 June Capt. LESLIE P. McDOUGAL 29 June-21 July 1st Lt. ROBERT A. PARKER 22 July-29 July Capt. HARLOW F. LENON 30 July-31 July 1st Lt. ROBERT A. PARKER

C O. Ren Co: 11 May-21 July Capt. HAROLD L. HOFFER 22 July-31 July Capt. JAMES M. CARPENTER

Med. Det. :

Capt. NATHANIEL (NMI) BERG

- Losses in action: Not applicable
- Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: (See Appendix No. 2)
- Photographs: None k.

For the Commanding Officer:

LEVI J. MCNEILL, JR. Captain Infantry,

S-3.

Incls:

1-Appendix No. 1 (Record of Operations)
2-Appendix No. 2 (Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action)

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APPENDIX No. 1

HECORD OF OPERATIONS

(11 May to 1 August 1945)

BECRET

MEADQUARTERS 644th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Record of Operations - (11 May to 01 Aug 45)

at the beginning of the period the battalion was assembled in SCHMERIN, Germany. All Companies were engaged in guarding prisoners of war, administering displaced persons camps, and running patrols in the general area. The Bn was attached to the 8th Infantry Division.

On 2 June 1945 the Battalion moved south and southwest from SCHMERIN and at about 2400 hrs closed in the new area designated by the 8th Infantry Division. Units of the Battalion were situated as follows:

Bà C P	**	GIESFLEHER	(0	256349)
Hq Co	-	*		Ħ
med Det	-	雙		10
Co "A"	**	GOPTSBUILDIN		225325)
Co "B"	-	GIESEL ERDER		258348)
Co #C#	-	GOTTSTE U		282326)
Ren Co	***	GOPPSBÜHEN	(C	223327)

The Bn, (with the 8th Div) was attached to the AIXCorps, effective 3 June 45.

During its stay at the above locations the Battalion engaged in a program of training, organized athletics and recreation.

On 15 June 45 the Battalion was released from attached to the 78th Infantry Division. The 78th Division further attached this Battalion to the 78th Division Artillery, who, in turn, attached the Battalion to the 307th F A Bn. Also, on this date, the Battalion was placed in category IV and became a part of the Seventh Army, having been released from the Ninth Army.

Between the 20th and the 22nd of June 45 this Battalion exchanged certain personnel with the 893rd TD Bn. a Category II unit. During this period the 644th TD Bn status was changed to Category I, and all troops returned to their original unit. The approximate number of personnel involved was 130 EM from each Bn. On 28 June 45, upon instructions from XIX Corps, the Battalion turned in all M-10 Tank Destroyers (36) to the 54th Ord Group and were issued in their place 36 M-18 Tank Destroyers vehicles.

On 3 July 45 the entire Batt lion moved to Landkreis ESCHWEGE and became responsible for the security of the Landkreis. This mission was accomplished by establishing road blocks at critical points for screening all persons, by check points, guarding of important installations, and guarding of one PW camp. Lt Col GRAH AM, CO, 644th TD Bn, was designated Landkreis Commander. Dispositions of the Battalion were as follows:

Bn C P Ag Co	Locawege	(H	614897)
hed Det	Ħ		Ħ
Co "A"			701899)
Co "B"	reichtagnachsen	(II	583866)
Co "C"	MONOHOF	(H	543907)
ken Co	BECAPEGE	(H	

On clearing from area vie Gissis while the Bn reversed to 78th Division Arty control. On 6 July 45 the Bnttalion completed relief of the 7730 FA Bn or all guard duties in the area.

On 10 July 45 the Bn was released from attachement to the 75th Intentry Division and was attached to the 3d Infantry Division and further attached to 30th Inftry Best effective at 1200 hours.

ComC" cleared from MONCHOF and closed in new area in 200 mes GE (H 618906) on 11 July 45.

On 20 July 45 Co"C" moved to HEITINGS in USEN (H 180935) returning to ESCHWEGE (H 618906) on 23 July 45. During this period the entire Battalion, with all units in the area, participated in operations "Table 1809.".

On 21 July 45 the Battalion was released from attachment to the AIA Corps and attached to the XXIII Corps.

Co"B", on 24 July 45, moved from RelCastance and closed in new area in Escaped (4 614899)

Per Vocc. 3d Inf Div. the Battalion was attached to 3d Inf Div Arty, effective 29 only 45. It col Ghades releaved as Landkreis Eschwege Compander.

Effective at 1700 nours, 30 buly 45, the 644th TD Bn was relieved of all security posts in Landereis Lod Wisco by the lat Bn, 30th Inf Regt.

At the end of the period Co"A" cleared from blyomac area in WANTHILD and closed in new area at FRITZDAN (H 072829), attached, for operations only, to the 41st FA Bn. Companies "B" and "C" were prepared to move to newly assigned area. In MERIAGINE and THEYBA, respectively. Co "B" to be attached, for operations only, to the 9th FA Bn and Co"C" to the 59th FA Bn. At 2400 hours, 31 July 45, the dispositions of the Battalion were as follows:

Bn C P liq Co	Boundar	(H	614897)
lica Det	#9		Ħ
Co"A"	FRIT LAR	(11	072829)
Ço"g"	. SOCIETA	(H	614895
Concu	La Contraction Contraction	(8	6148993
non Co		(li	632900)



APPENDIX No. 2

FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION



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Former and Present Members who have Bistinguished Themselves in Action.

(1) Silver Star Award.

"C", 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 April 1945 in the vicinity of LOTZEL, Germany. When the advance was halted by enemy self-propelied gans, Lt Modre personally recommotered anead of the infantry while under heavy small arms and artillery fire. Commanding a tank destroyer in an attempt to overrun the enemy position, Lt Modre advanced to within 75 yards of the foe before his tank destroyer was hit and stopped by enemy fire. Remaining at his post to direct fire on the enemy, Lt Modre was killed when his tank destroyer received a second hit. His outstanding courage and annesitating devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Georgia.

MALTER E MCGHANN, JR. 01822424, let Lt. FA (TD), Company *B*, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallentry in action and 1 and 4 March 1945 and 11 April 1945 in the vicinity of FRECHEN, MODRATH, and BANNOF, Germany. On 1 March, Lt McGRANN dismounted from his venicle to recommoiter an alternate route and guided the plateen to the successful completion of its mission. On 4 March, he made a thorough foot recommaissance under intense sniper, morter and self-propelled fire and directed tank destroyer fire in routing the enemy and permitting the infantry to resume its advance. On 11 April, when enemy snipers killed and wounded several infantrymen, Lt McGRANN administered aid to the wounded and directed the attack on enemy positions overpowering three enemy strongpoints and capturing fifty prisoners. His supperb display of leadership and great courage were in keeping with the mighest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH W CLUSTO, 32002281, T/Sgt. FA. Company "C" 644th Tank Destroyer Battalian, for gallantry in action from 19 Harch 1945 to 5 April 1945 in the vicinity of \$3303355. Germany. During the seventeen days period. Sgt Glusto traveled a mined road under neavy enemy fire on 23 March to recover a disabled Tank Destroyer. Sgt Glusto, Company Hotor Sergeant, effected the recovery of nine M-10 Tank Destroyers while subjected to intense enemy fire. On 23 March, d-though wounded by the nostile fire, he refeed to be evacuated and completed his mission. On 5 April, he made two Tank Destroyer recoveries in the face of furious and unvavering devotion to duty contributed lime-easurable to the operational saccesses of his company. Entered the military service from New York.

STABLLY V KEPI DET, 32183519. Sgt. FA. Company "C" 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallentry in action on 16 April 1945 in the vicinity of \$65,555. Germany. When the advance of the infantry was nalted by direct callery fire. Sergeant KEPINDEI moved his Tank Destroyer into position to engage the enemy. Although thirty rounds of mostile fire were directed at his position, he maintained fire and climinated an enemy gan. 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 game with an armored half-track.

Sgt 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 strong-hold. En tered the military service from New Jersey.

A F E JORDAN, 34058843, S/Sgt, FA, Company "B", 644th 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, Sgt JORDON, while under intense enemy small arms and mortar fire made a reconnaissance 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 reduction of the stronghold and the sarrender of 200 German officers and enlisted men. Entered the military service from FLORIDA.

BERNARD SEISMAN, 33476140, T/5, FA, Reconnaissance Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for galiantry in action on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$, Germany. Driving the lead armored vehicle into a strongly held enemy town, T/5 BEISMAN braved heavy anti-tank and ranzer Faust fire to force a breach in the enemy defenses. Though killed by enemy tank fire, his galiant actions were responsible for gaining an initial foothold which led to the complete capture of the town. his great courage and devotion to duty were in the mignest traditions of the military service.

AMOS E COTY, 31322254, PFC, FA, Reconnaissance Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for acroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 19 March 1945 in the vicinity of §§§§§§, Germany. During an intense enemy artillery barrage, .rd coty administered first aid to wounded comrades and organized litter squads to evacuate all wounded. His great courage and devoition to duty were directly responsible for saving many lives. Entered the military service from Maine.

JOHN E KIRK, 34174874, 5/Sgt, FA, Company "A", 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 1 May 1945 in the vicinity of BLECKEDE, Germany. While in close support of attacking infantry, the lead tank destroyer struck a mine and burst into riames. Sgt KIRK immediately rushed to the barning tank, and, despite the intense heat and danger of exploding ammunition, removed two wounded men who were trapped in the haton. His great courage and complete disregard for his own safety were directly responsible for saving the lives of the two men. Entered the military service from North Carolina.

(2) Bronze Star Award

Tank Destroyer Battalion, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy during the period from 30 November 1944 to 8 May 1945 in Germany. Serving throughout this period as Battalion Sgt/Major, M/Sgt KNIGHT has maintained a nigh standard or administrative efficiency. During the rapid drive from the Roer River to the Rhine River, he assured the maximum cooperation from the command post group, thereby relieving officers of many administrative details and permitting them to devote their time to the tactical operations of details of the unit. His unswerving and tireless devoition to duty is in accordance with the nighest military traditions of the military

service. Enterted the military service from Kansas.

ANTHONY COLAMARINO, 32183611, FA, Hq Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing nimself by meritorious service as Tank Mechanic in connection with military operations in western Europe during the period 1 December 1944 to 8 May 1945 against an enemy of the United States. T/4 COLAMARINO'S outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

JAMES & CARMITER, 0465914, Capt, FA, Hq Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by meritorio s service as Battalion Motor Officer in connection with military operations in Germany during the period 1 April 1945 to 7 May 1945 against an enemy of the United States. Capt CARMITER'S outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Texas.

WALTER G DRABIN. 32184387, T/4, FA, Company "A".
644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for neroic achievement
in connection with military operations against the enemy
on 25 February 1945 in the vicinity of GIRBELSRATH, Germany.
When two M-10 tank destroyers b came immobilized forward of the
front lines and presented a nazardous obstacle to advancing
tank elements, T/4 DRABIN braved intense small arms fire to
examine the extent of the damage. Then returning with a recovery crew, he recovered one tank destroyer and removed the other
from the road. His great courage and devotion to duty were
in the mighest traditions of the military service. Entered
the military service from New Jersey.

OCAR P McDonald, 34149092, T/5, FA, Reconsaissance Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity of GEVELSB AG, Germany. After the lead vehicle was knocked out by enemy tank fire, T/5 McDonald successfully maneuvered his vehicle to a position where mounted infantry could dismount safely, after which the vehicle was completely demolished by enemy tank fire. His quick thinking and courage were in the accordance with the nignest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Georgia.

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 or the united States. Sgt BACGS outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the nignest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

ERWIN C FISH, 17051043, T/4, FA, Hq Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battolion, for distinguishing himself by meritorios 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. T/4 FISH'S outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the nighest traditions of the

military service. Entered the military service from Minnesota.

FRANK P PINGITORE, 32066049, Sgt, FA, Hq Co, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for distinguishing himself by merit orious 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. Sgt PINGITORE'S outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

ENRY W VAN PERNIS, 35131709, T/4, FA, Hq Co, 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. T/4 VAN PERNIS' outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Ohio.

ARTHUR E ARCHIBALD, 31034482, S/Sgt, FA, Reconnaissance Co, 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, Sgt ARCHBALD exposed nimself to furious enemy tank fire to direct infantryman in dismounting his venicle. When the vehicle was knocked out, he joined the infantry troops in capturing the town and taking 200 prisoners. His gallant actions and courage were in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Massachusetts.

ARTHUR P DEVINE, 20236278, Sgt, FA, Company "A", 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 15 April 1945 to the vicinity of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$, Germany. Without regard for his personal safety, Sgt 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.

WILLIAM E PUESCHEL, 30691415, Fut, FA, 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 sarety, Fut FUESCHEL 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 serveral trips throughout the day thereby contributing immeasurabley to the compat successes of his platoon. His great courage and devotion to duty were in the nighest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Illinois.

HOWARD W HENRY, 33129498, PFC, FA, Company "B" 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 14 April 1945 in the vicinity or \$555555, Germany. After

his tank was nit by enemy artillery and set aftire, PVt HaNRY although wounded and severely snocked evacuated three seriously wounded members of his platoon while under neavy enemy macnine fire. Making a second trip, he evacuated the gun com-mander just before the ammunition began exploding. He then He then assisted in administering first aid to the wounded before consenting to evacuation. His bravery and unselfish dis-regard for his personal safety reflect great credit on himself, his organization and the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

THEODORE A JETT, 33391356, T/5, FA, 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 999999, Germany. When his tank destroyer was hit by enemy artillery and set arire, T/5 JETT, although wounded and severely shocked, evacuated three serverely wounded members of his platoon while under neavy machine gun rire and exploding ammunition. His great courage and unselfish disregard for his personal safety were in keeping with the nignest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Maryland.

ANTHONY J RICCIARDO, 32058000, Sgt, FA, Company "B", 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic against the enemy on connection with military operations against the enemy on 30 March 1945 in the vicinity or \$\$\$\$\$\$, Germany. When the driver of the leading tank destroyer was mortally wounded, Sgt RICCIARDO aided in evacuating the man while under furious enemy machine gun and morter fire. Then Sgt RICCIARDO courageously led his tank destroyer against enery armor enabling infantry troops to seize their object-ive. 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.

STEPHEN SHIMROCK, 35418325, Sgt, FA, 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, 55t SHIMROCK aided in evacuating the man while under furions enemy machine gun and mortar lire. Then Sgt SHIMHOCK courageously led his tank destroyer against enemy armor enabling infantry troops to seize their objective. His unselrish disregard for his personal safety and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entereed the military service from Pennsylvania.

HOBERT M TREMBLAY, 31036117, T/4, FA, 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 \$9\$\$\$\$, Germeny. When the driver of the leading trank destroyer was mortally wounded, T/4 THEMBLAY aided in evacuating the man while under fur-ious enemy magnine gan and mortar fire. Then T/4 TREM! ious enemy machine gan and mortar fire. BLAY courageously drove his tank destroyer against enomy 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.

GEORGE A BONACCI, 32004912, S/Sgt, FA, 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 morter lire. Sgt BONACCI advanced with his section in the face of this terrific fire. Finding the route of approach impassable, Sgt BONACCI, with utter disregard for his personal safety, left his tank destroyer and directed his section on foot clong a new route of approach. His courage, and inspirational leadership were highly instrument in the taking of the objective. Entered the military service from New York.

CARROLL HOHENSEE, 34153555, Sgt, FA, 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 \$\$55555. Germany. When the advance upon an enemy stronghold had been held up, Sgt 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 Louisiana.

WILLIAM P VISNICH, 33418389. Sgt. FA. Company "C".
644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 February 1945 in the vicinity of \$955555. Germany. In an assault upon a strongly defended enemy position, Sgt VISNICH left the security of his steel turret and braved furious enemy small arms and mortar fire to direct the movements or his tank destroyer. Hen 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 Penssylvania.

ALFRED J LIOI, 32003767, S/Sgt, FA, Company "B", 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 28 March 1945 in the vicinity of \$\$\$\$\$9\$, Germany. When the advance of the platoon was halted by a road block consisting of dommy mines covered by neavy enemy machine gun fire, Sgt 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 military service from New York.