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HIST

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BY AUTH C.O. 894TH TD Bn
INITIALS *SL*
DATE 17 Apr 1945.

HEADQUARTERS 894TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 464, U.S. ARMY

314.7

17 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Journal and History for month of March 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO 464, U.S. Army.

Transmitted herewith Journal of this organization for month of March, 1945, and History of this organization for month of March, 1945.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Daniel Loewenthal

DANIEL LOEWENTHAL,
Capt., Inf., 894th TD Bn.,
Adjutant.

- 2 Incls.
- Incl #1 - Journal for month of March 1945 (1)
- Incl #2 - History for month of March 1945 (3).

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Prints, Capt AGD
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 28 Aug 46.....

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BATTALION HISTORY, 894TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

March 1945:

Major PAUL A. BALDY, commanded the Bn during the month.

Captain THOMAS K. LeGUERN, served as Executive Officer from the 7th.

Captain JOSEPH R. UHLER, served as Bn S-3 during the month.

Captain MARVIN O. BROWN, served as Bn S-2 during the month.

Captain RAYMOND G. HELLER, served as Bn S-4 during the month.

Captain DANIEL LOEWENTHAL, served as Adjutant during the month.

Captain WARNER S. HALE, served as Asst Acting Adjutant during the month.

Captain JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN, served as Bn Surgeon during the month.

1st Lt. RAYMOND L. WILSON, served as Bn Communications Off during the month.

WOJG HOWEL C. MANGUM, served as Bn Automotive Off to the 17th.

1st Lt. GEORGE V. KMIECINSKI, served as Bn Automotive Off from the 18th.

WOJG HOWEL C. MANGUM, served as Asst Bn Automotive Off from the 18th.

Captain WARNER S. HALE, served as Commander of Hq Co during the month.

Captain THOMAS K. LeGUERN, served as Commander of Co A to the 6th.

Captain HARRY BRADSHAW, served as Commander of Co A from the 6th.

1st Lt. JOHN W. MADDEN, served as Commander of Co B during the month.

Captain BERNARD T. SCHAEFER, served as Commander of Co C during the month.

Captain WILLIAM J. DAVIS, served as Commander of Hcn Co during the month.

Captain BERNARD T. SCHAEFER, was promoted to grade of Capt on the 17th.

1st Lt. JAMES C. KENNEDY, was promoted to grade of 1st Lt on the 7th.

1st Lt. WILLIAM C. NANCE, was promoted to grade of 1st Lt on the 27th.

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BATTALION HISTORY, 894TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

March 1945:

1 -10-Tonfano-The 1st day of the month found Companies in the same positions. Reconnaissance Company remained attached to 81st Reconnaissance Squadron and continued to conduct security and interior patrols. Companies A and B conducted test firing and zeroing in of small arms on the 1st. This necessitated leaving positions from which we could fire at the enemy and going to VIAREGGIO and firing out to sea. During the period A Company fired 43 missions, B Company 56 missions and C Company 53 missions. On the 2nd B Company adjusted on three enemy vehicles and at completion of firing left them burning. On the 3rd, C Company conducted test firing and zeroing in of small arms. On the 5th A Company completely destroyed a house and shot up other enemy occupied houses. On the 5th the 894th Cinema was opened in TONFANO near the Battalion Command Post and was operated by personnel of the 45th Special Service Company. The following movies were shown during the period: On the 5th, "Bride By Mistake", 6th, "Sweet and Lowdown", the 7th, "Marriage is a Private Affair", 8th, "Tampico", 9th, "Meet the People", and on the 10th, "Ghost of Canterville Gulch". Reconnaissance Company was released attachment 81st Reconnaissance Squadron and attached to 4th Tank Battalion, 1st Armored Division effective 061200A. On the 7th C Company was attached to 751st Tank Battalion effective 071730A, and was to move to vicinity of TAVIANO. The Company closed in new area at 071730A, after a five and one-half hour move without a single vehicle dropping out. On the 8th A Company definitely destroyed three enemy occupied houses. The weather was fair and warm during the period. The Companies continued to shoot up enemy occupied houses and machine gun points during the remainder of the period.

11-20-Tonfano-A and B Companies remained under Battalion control while C Company remained attached to 751st Tank Battalion. Reconnaissance Company continued to conduct security and interior patrols, dismounted. On the 11th A Company fired on an Observation Post in a cement factory in PORTA knocking one Observation Post down. The Company also demolished two houses. On the 13th A Company, still attached to 751st Tank Battalion, went into indirect fire positions. A Company continued firing on houses and the factory at PORTA and scored several more hits. On the 18th A Company destroyed the last smoke stack (four in all) on the factory at PORTA as well as firing on road junctions and houses with excellent results. On the 20th C Company was relieved of its artillery role by B Company, 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and took up direct support role in support of 3rd Battalion, 87th Mountain Infantry, 10th Mountain Division. A total of 159 missions were fired by A and B Companies during this period. The following movies were shown: On the 11th "The Man from Half-Moon Street", 12th, "In the Meantime Darling", 13th, "Sensations

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BATTALION HISTORY, 894TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

March 1945:

of 1945", 14th, "Nothing But Trouble", 15th, "Experiment Perilous" and "Gaslight". "Gaslight" was also shown on the 16th along with "Battle for Russia". "Battle for Russia" was again shown on the 17th along with "National Barn Dance". On the 18th "Flame of Barbary Coast", 19th, "Follow the Boys", on the 20th "Experiment Perilous". The following training films were shown during the period: On the 15th "Prelude to War", on the 16th and 17th, "Battle of Russia", on the 18th "Tank Destroyer Platoon in Combat", on the 19th "Tank Destroyer Marksmanship" and "Tank Destroyer Platoon in Combat". On the 18th a Softball team was picked and played its first game on the 19th against the 600th Field Artillery Battalion's Battery C. This first game was won by the Battalion by a score of 8 - 6.

21-31-Tonfano-The weather continued fair. On the 22nd B and C Companies took enemy machine gun positions under fire with excellent results. C Company also took enemy houses under fire and caused a large explosion in what was believed to be an ammunition dump. C Company received mortar fire but suffered no damage. On the 23rd the 2nd Platoon of B Company moved forward in order to fire on targets in vicinity of GARRARA. All Companies continued firing on enemy occupied houses and road junctions as well as firing harassing and registration missions. On the 24th Reconnaissance Company was released attachment 4th Tank Battalion and attached to 1st Tank Battalion and continued to conduct security and interior patrols. On the 25th the mortar platoon of Reconnaissance Company exercised by firing 18 rounds at an enemy occupied building in vicinity of VERGATO. The latter part of the month was relatively quiet. On the 28th a Staff and Company Commanders meeting was held at the Forward Command Post laying emphasis on points for training. On the 29th an enemy house destroyed by A Company was reported to have contained snipers. They also destroyed a machine gun emplacement. B Company continued direct fire on enemy Observation Posts. One M-10 fired on the caves at PORTA. The end of the month saw no changes in positions. A total of 180 missions were fired during the period. The show in the town of TONFANO operated during the period with the following movies being shown: On the 21st, "Sweet and Lowdown", 22nd, "Mrs. Parkington", 23rd, "One Body Too Many", 24th, "Lassie Come Home", 25th, "Nothing But Trouble", 28th, "National Barn Dance", 29th, "Lady in the Dark", 30th, "Pin Up Girl", and on the 31st, "Cover Girl". At 2100 hours on the 31st Reconnaissance Company was released attachment 1st Tank Battalion and reverted to Battalion control. The following training films were shown during the period: On the 22nd and 23rd "Friend or Foe Tanks", on the 26th "Camouflage Principles", on the 27th "Know Your Enemy", on the 30th and 31st, "Mechanized Patrolling". Softball games continued during the period. On the 21st

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BATTALION HISTORY, 894TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

March 1945:

the Battalion played Battery B, 600th Field Artillery Battalion, losing by a score of 13 - 9. On the 22nd the Battalion won its game against Headquarters Battery, 600th Field Artillery Battalion by a score of 10 - 8, and again on the 24th after a day of rest won by a score of 8 - 4 against the same team. On the 25th two teams from B and C Companies played with B Company the winner by a score of 11 - 3. Due to the existing situation the softball games were discontinued.

GAINS DURING THE MONTH

OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED: 0	ATTACHED: 0
WARRANT OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED: 0	ATTACHED: 0
ENLISTED MEN:	ASSIGNED: 21	ATTACHED: 0

LOSSES DURING THE MONTH

OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED: 0	ATTACHED: 0
WARRANT OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED: 0	ATTACHED: 0
ENLISTED MEN:	ASSIGNED: 25	ATTACHED: 0

STRENGTH OF THE BATTALION AT MIDNIGHT 31 MARCH 1945

OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED: 36	ATTACHED: 0
WARRANT OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED: 1	ATTACHED: 0
ENLISTED MEN:	ASSIGNED: 614	ATTACHED: 0

CASUALTIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1945: None.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945

Major PAUL A. BALDY, commanded the Bn during the month.

Captain THOMAS K. LeGUERN, served as Executive Officer during the month

Captain MARVIN C. BROWN, served as Bn S-3 during the month

Captain RAYMOND G. HELLER, served as Bn S-4 during the month

Captain DANIEL LOEWENTHAL, served as Adjutant during the month

Captain WARNER S. HALE, served as Act. Pers. Off. to th 21st.

Captain JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN, served as Bn Surgeon on the 1st and 2nd

1st Lt. GEORGE V. KNIECINSKI, served as Hq Co. Commander for the month

Captain HARRY BRADSHAW, served as Commander of Co A during the month

1st Lt. JOHN W. MADDEN, served as Commander of Co B during the month

Captain BERNARD T. SCHAEFER, served as Commander of Co C during the month

Captain WILLIAM J. DAVIS, served as Commander of Rcn Co during the month

WOJG ROBERT S. BAKER, served as Pers. Off. from 22 April

1st Lt. FRANCISCO L. RAFFUCCI, served as Bn Surgeon from 4 April

m. allen
1st Lt. W. S. S.
28 Aug 96

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BATTALION HISTORY 89th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945: Equipment lost during the operation of the Battalion as Task Force from 6 April 1945 to 10 April 1945 as follows:

Own armored Vehicle casualties.

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
4	M-5 Lt. tank	Mines	Recovered
1	M-5 Lt. tank	A/T Gun	Destroyed (Burned)
2	M-5 Lt. tank	Turned over	Recovered
1	M-5 Lt. tank	Enemy Bazooka	Destroyed
5	M-10 T.D.	Mines	Recovered
1	M-4 Tank Dozer	Enemy Bazooka	Destroyed
1	T-2 Retriever	Mines	Recovered
1	M-10 T.D.	Enemy Bazooka	Destroyed

Personnel casualties sustained by 89th Tank Destroyer Battalion only.

KIA	SWA	MIA	SIA	LWA
3	6	2	1	3

Equipment damaged and lost, Period: 19 April 1945.

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
1	M-10 T.D.	Mines	Destroyed
1	M-10 T.D.	Artillery frag- ments punctured radiators	Destroyed
1	M-10 T.D.	Mortar bomb broke track, immobilized M-10, set on fire by hit from enemy artillery	Destroyed
1	M-5 Lt. tank	Mines	Recovered
1	M-4 Med tank	Mines	Recovered

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

- 1 - TONFANO - Found the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the 92nd Infantry Division with the mission of supporting Artillery. Some April Fools Day jokes were evident, but the seriousness of an impending attack was also manifested.

A and B Company fired 18 missions on differing types of enemy targets. C Company was in direct fire positions supporting the 10th Mountain Division in the vicinity of MONTOSE and remained attached to the 751st Tank Battalion. Reconnaissance Company was relieved of its dismounted role and attachment to the 13th Tank Battalion of the 1st Armored Division and reverted to Battalion control whereupon they engaged in small unit training in the vicinity of CASTEL DI CASIO.

- 2, 3 - TONFANO - Found A and B Company firing Artillery support missions. C Company demolished several enemy strong points by direct fire.
- 4 - TONFANO - The 1st and 3rd Platoons of A Company moved into direct fire positions in support of the 370th Infantry. The same platoons in B Company moved into support of 371st Infantry as assault artillery. The 3rd platoon of B Company went to support the 442 Infantry Regiment with direct fire and liaison was established with the 100th Infantry Battalion. The weather was good.
- 5 - TONFANO - All platoons of A Company now in direct support role with the 370th Infantry fired at dugouts and pillboxes vicinity of STRETTOIA killing and wounding several of the enemy. C Co having passed from the operations control of 751st Tank Battalion fired its 2 5 gun batteries under the 424th Field Artillery Group.
- 6 - TONFANO - Things started popping for the big push. The Commanding Officer reconnoitered all available routes of advance. Final orders and plans were put forth and everything was in a state of readiness for the actual attack on the morrow.
- 7 - TONFANO - Started with a terrific artillery barrage on the enemy positions at 0530 hours.

At this time the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion (-Ron & C Co's) attached to the 92nd Infantry Division operating in the Ligurian coastal sector (U-90-90) Square.

The mission of the Battalion was to support this division with aggressive direct fire and accurate artillery fire. The width of the Battalion sector extended East from the coast, inland, to include a portion of the coastal mountains.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

Major Baldy, Commanding Officer, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion took over an Armored Task Force, comprised of A and B Companies, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion, elements of B and C Companies 760th Tank Battalion (Med) and elements of B and C Companies 758 Tank Battalion (Lt.).

Mission of the Task Force, to support infantry assault of enemy line on coastal plain, attack and capture Massa. This was a diversionary assault, in force by the 92nd Infantry Division and 442 R.C.T., on the enemies Gothic line. Numerous difficulties were encountered, natural barriers, wide canals, ditches and boggy ground. Flat terrain to the front, with numerous hedgerows, Olive groves and other heavy vegetation offered little protection for armor, and provided limited fields of fire. The sea on the left flank, with sheer coastal mountains on the right flank, 3000 yards inland from the sea, gave the enemy excellent observation and a better target area for his artillery. Numerous minefields, blown bridges, covered by all types of fire from prepared positions, did not daunt our attack.

The enemies Gothic line was breached due to close coordination between Tanks and Tank Destroyers, mutually supporting the infantry. The attack continued with the unit inflicting numerous casualties on enemy personnel.

- 8 - TONFANO - Major Baldy's Task Force continued the assault on MASSA. During this period heavy enemy artillery concentrations of all types and calibres, minefields, anti-tank and Self propelled gun fire, were encountered. Enemy small arms and mortar fire continued unabated. This period ended with the Task Force on the outskirts of MASSA.
- 9 - TONFANO - A Company continued in direct role as part of Task Force Curtis which succeeded Task Force Baldy in support of 92nd Infantry Division operations, and lost one Tank Destroyer from bazooka fire. Two of the six men on the destroyer got out.

One section of the 1st platoon of B Company moved into direct fire positions. The 2nd platoon moved into direct fire positions with one section at Mt. Belvedere and the other at Querciolo. One section of the 3rd platoon moved into direct fire positions at SASSADELLO. The Company C. P. at MAENZANO. The 1st and 3rd platoons crossed FRIGIDO RIVER at 0930 hours with no enemy fire except harassing artillery. The 2nd platoon crossed the river at 1000 hours.

The first platoon of C Company moved into direct fire positions with one section at TUFI and the other at MT. TERMINALE. The

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

third platoon moved into direct fire position in vicinity of SASSOMALARE.

Reconnaissance Company moved into forward positions. The 1st platoon with the 2nd platoon was in general support of 1st Infantry Regiment, Brazilian Expeditionary Force and 370th Infantry Regiment.

- 10 -BOMBIANA- Headquarters Company, B Company and Reconnaissance Company marched from VIAREGGIO to GAGGIO MONTANO arriving at 0405 hours on 10 April. Battalion Command Post was set up at BOMBIANA. Headquarters was detached 92nd Infantry Division effective at 0405 hours on 10 April and closed new area at this time. B Company was detached 92nd Infantry Division effective 0600B hours on the 10th and arrived new area at 0430B hours. C Company was relieved attachment to 751st Tank Battalion and reverted to parent unit control effective 0600B hours on the 10th. A Company of the 760 Tank Battalion was relieved attachment 751st Tank Battalion and attached to the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion effective 0600B hours on the 10th as was the Dog Company of the 760th Tank Battalion. One three-quarter ton truck from Headquarters Company missed a bridge near PORRETTA and two men were killed.
- 10 -BOMBIANA- All platoons of A Company advanced on FRIGIDO RIDGE west of MASSA, and captured three prisoners. Task Force Bradshaw entered CERVERA approximately 1840B hours without Infantry and encountered heavy small arms and bazooka fire. Upon approval of the 760th Tank Battalion they pulled back at 2100 hours. The 1st Platoon of A Company reentered CERVERA approximately 0930B hours on the 11th accompanied by friendly infantry; cleared the town and proceeded into MASSA. Three prisoners were captured and turned over to friendly Infantry. B Company reconnoitered for fire positions and serviced vehicles. C Company reconnoitered for fire positions and serviced vehicles. Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered for fire positions and serviced vehicles.
- 11 -BOMBIANA- The 1st platoon along with the 3rd platoon of A Company crossed the Frigido River at 0930 hours encountering no enemy resistance except harassing artillery fire. The 2nd platoon crossed the FRIGIDO RIVER at 1000B hours. Artillery fire was received by G Company but only two casualties were suffered, evacuation not being necessary. Three mine detector crews were attached to Headquarters Company from Reconnaissance Company for operations.
- 12 -BOMBIANA- A Company reported very little activity. The 1st platoon

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

fired 9 rounds 3" at enemy personnel and the 3rd platoon fired 20 rounds 3" at an enemy Observation Post and strong points.

One platoon of C Company worked with Task Force Schaefer in support of the 11th Regiment Brazilian Expeditionary Force along with the 1st and 3rd platoons of A Company, 760th Tank Battalion and 3rd platoon, G Company, 760th Tank Battalion. Lt. Hanford from C Company established Liaison with the 11th Regiment Brazilian Expeditionary Force at 1805 hours.

The 3rd platoon of A Company fired 50 rounds APCBD at a suspicious enemy Anti-Tank and enemy self-propelled guns with one gun possibly knocked out.

Task Force Schaefer (Captain Bernard T. Schaefer, Commanding Officer, C Company, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion in command) jumped off at 1230 hours on the 14th. Tanks and tank Destroyers were held up at BICOCCHI by mines and mine crews were called out to clear a path. Task Force Schaefer captured thirty-seven (37) prisoners at this time.

Reconnaissance Company Command Post moved to new location at MODENA DI BRASA at 0140 hours. The 1st Platoon closed in new area GRANDE D' AIANO at 0140 hours with the 2nd platoon closing in another new area the same time the 3rd platoon closed in area CASTEL D'AIANO at 0140 hours. The entire company went in general support of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brazilian Expeditionary Force. The Rear Command Post closed area in vicinity of BOMBIANA at 1130 hours.

14 -BOMBIANA- At 1830 hours on the 14th the 2nd Platoon of Company A was relieved from attachment to 760th Tank Battalion and attached to 442nd Infantry Regiment in support of the 1st Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment.

The 3rd Platoon was given the mission of lighting TERREROSSE with star shells to assist our aircraft but the mission was called off. One gun from the 1st Platoon of Company C entered MONTESE at 1940 hours. The 1st Platoon of Reconnaissance Company closed in new area M. GRANDE D' AIANO and the 3rd platoon closed in new area CASTEL D' AIANO at 1220 hours on the 15th. Lt. Elias relieved Lt. Hanford as Liaison Officer with the 11th Regiment, BRF, effective 0950 hours and Lt. Hanford returned to Company C.

15 -BOMBIANA- The 3rd platoon of A Company, working with the 1st platoon of G Company, 760th Tank Battalion and attached to 473rd Infantry Regiment, fired 31 rounds of 3" and knocked out an anti-tank

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

(88)mm gun which was confirmed by friendly infantry.

One gun of the 2nd section of the 3rd platoon, B Company, completed registration at 1850 hours for night shooting with illuminating shells to aid Air Corps bombing.

The 1st platoon of C Company was relieved from the MONTESE area. The 2nd platoon continued to support elements of the 11th Regiment Brazilian Expeditionary Force. They fired on enemy houses in vicinity CARRELLO and scored many direct hits. The Company received a replacement for an M-10 which was knocked out behind enemy lines, by enemy artillery. A diary taken from a German prisoner gave information of the enemy. Reconnaissance Company reported no activity.

16 -BOMBIANA-

The 2nd Platoon of A Company remained attached to 442nd Infantry Regiment, but was relieved from support of 1st Battalion 442nd and began supporting the 3rd battalion. The 3rd platoon fired on an enemy self-propelled gun but reported that it was doubtful if it was hit due to poor visibility. The gun from B Company which registered to aid Air Corps bombing fired 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ illuminating shells from 2205 hours to 2315 hours but no results were reported by the Air Corps. The gun returned to the section positions at 1700 on the 17th.

The 1st Section of the 1st platoon, C Company moved to SASSOMALARE and the 2nd Section moved to 592-248. No other changes were reported by C Company.

17 -BOMBIANA-

The 2nd platoon of A Company adjusted on an enemy battery but ceased fire because of hazy visibility. The 3rd platoon demolished a pillbox in which was believed to have been an anti-tank gun, but no confirmation was received. B Company was relieved parent unit and attached to 85th Infantry Division effective 1900 hours on the 17th. The Company closed old positions at 0038B hours on the 18th and closed new positions at MALPOSSO at 0545 hours on the 18th.

Friendly Infantry reported that three enemy dead were discovered at the position of the 88 mm which was knocked out.

18 -BOMBIANA-

Lt. Elias, Liaison Officer with 6th Regiment Infantry Brazilian Expeditionary Force was relieved and returned to Battalion Command Post at 1530 hours. Lt. Fernando Graell, Liaison Officer from Brazilian Expeditionary Force reported to 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion Command Post at 1600 hours on the 18th

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

The second platoon of A Company, attached to 442nd Infantry Regiment, supported the 100th Infantry Battalion and fired 88 rounds 3" at an enemy strong point. The 3rd platoon captured one enemy prisoner of war.

This was very quiet period for all elements of the battalion less A Company. B Company continued attached to 85th Infantry Division in support of the 338th Infantry Regiment. The 1st and 3rd platoons located at PIANA D VENDLA. At 2030 hours the 2nd Section of the 1st platoon, Company C covered a patrol of the 3rd battalion, 1st Regiment, Brazilian Expedition Force which went to SASSO DE BALDINO. No enemy was encountered.

The Battalion Command Post closed in new area vicinity CANEVACCIA at 1300 hours on the 19th.

Lt. Davare was relieved as platoon leader 2nd platoon, G Company and Lt. Elias took over the platoon.

19 -CANEV-

ACCIA - A Company continued firing at enemy strong points and also fired at an enemy self-propelled gun. Results were unknown due to poor visibility.

B Company at MONTE S. GIOVANNI in support of the 338th Infantry Regiment. The 2nd platoon was attached to B Company, 751st Tank Battalion in support of 371st Infantry. No firing was reported and all platoons continued to follow infantry elements

C Company platoon moves out enroute to BERTOCCHI in support of 2nd Battalion, 11th Regiment Brazilian Expeditionary Force. The remainder of the period was spent awaiting orders to move out to ZOGGA.

Reconnaissance Company led armored elements north towards ZOGGA and encountered no enemy personnel but was slowed by numerous enemy demolitions on the road as well as extensive minefields.

The Battalion Advance at the close of the period was enroute to BOLOGNINI.

20 -CANEV-

ACCIA - A Company fired at enemy strong points and destroyed an enemy machine gun. They also fired at an enemy mule train and an Observation Post. B Company forward Command Post closed MARISI ENRoute to ANZOLA DELLA OLMA to join 338th Infantry Regiment. The Rear Command Post closed FONDOZZA at 1230 hours. The 2nd

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BATTALION HISTROY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

platoon was attached to B Company 751 Tank Battalion and captured 17 prisoners. The 3rd platoon captured 5 prisoners. During the night of 20th April the 2nd platoon knocked out three enemy self-propelled guns. This was confirmed by the Infantry. The company was operating in vicinity of CREVELCORE. C Company, less the 2nd platoon and Reconnaissance Company spent the night of the 20th in assembly areas vicinity VIA CAVA THIANO BARATO, and after drawing small arms fire from enemy personnel and ant-tank fire vicinity via CAVA THIANO. Both companies pushed off at dawn on the morning of the 21st for ZOCCA with one platoon of Reconnaissance Company leading with Tank Destroyers, and Tanks following. 0710 hours Reconnaissance Company reported that ZOCCA with one platoon of men had been reached but no enemy had been encountered. Progress from ZOCCA to the northward was slow due to enemy demolitions. The 1st platoon of Reconnaissance captured 1 prisoner from the 114th Jaeger Division.

The Battalion Command Post closed in vicinity of BOLOGNINO at 1500 hours on the 21st.

A trailer from the S-1 section overturned but no damage was suffered to equipment or supplies. Also a truck and trailer loaded with diesel overturned in trying to make the same bypass but no damage was suffered.

21 - BOLOG

NINO -

The 1st platoon of B Company knocked out two enemy machine gun nests, causing numerous casualties and captured 12 prisoners of War. All platoons under control of the 338th Infantry Regiment. The Company was relieved attached 338th Infantry Regiment and attached to 337th Infantry Regiment.

The 2nd platoon of C Company relieved the 2nd Battalion, 11th Regiment. Brazilian Expeditionary Force and returned to control of parent unit effective 1800 hours on the 21st.

On the night of 21 April units of the Battalion were shifted so that their section covered the axis ZOCCA, CERPIGNANO, MONTE ORSELLO, GUIGLIA. The first platoon of Reconnaissance Company made a night movement to PRATO closing on morning of the 22nd. The point consisted of one Reconnaissance platoon supported by one Company of Tank Destroyers. This was necessary due to the amount of armor using the main axis. Units of A Company, 760th Tank Battalion, D Company, 760th Tank Battalion along with our units jumped off at 0700 on the 22nd. Enemy road demolitions were immediately encountered but were quickly by passed. Mine sweeping units of the Battalion removed numerous old-type Teller mines. Speed was facilitated by the Tank Dozer of A Company.

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BATTALION HISTORY 89th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

760th Tank Battalion which constructed excellent by passes around enemy demolitions. Enemy machine gun fire was received by friendly Infantry from vicinity of MARANO but Tank Destroyers silenced this with 3" fire. An extensive minefield was encountered on the main road. All these mines were Tellers and freshly set and were removed by mine sweepers and Partisans. Reconnaissance units drew self-propelled fire from vicinity of VIGNOLA at 1230 hours but this fire ceased and another by-pass was made and our units reached PALAZZINA without incident. At this point all units were ordered to cease forward movement in preparation for a different mission. The mission assigned was to cross the PANARO RIVER, moving west, cutting highway 12 and the taking of RUBIERA. Reconnaissance Company captured four prisoners in vicinity of GUIGLIA making a total 16 captured by the Battalion during the period.

22 - BOLOGNA

NINO - The 3rd platoon of Co. A entered La APEZIA at 2208 hours and spent 14 hours there before friendly infantry arrived. At 1130 hours on the 23rd our Armor jumped off ahead of the Infantry and and forded the PANARO RIVER and entered VIGNOLA at 1200 hours. At 1405 hours the Reconnaissance elements were held up by demolished stream crossing. After crossing this stream a blown bridge was encountered but a by-pass was quickly found and they drove on. Company B, operating with the 339th Infantry Regiment, assisted in capturing 640 P.W.'s, and many heavy vehicles. At 1515 hours C Company cut highway 12 south of MODENA. At 1520 hours the objective FORMIGINE was reached. Elements from Reconnaissance Company and the Armor pushed on th SASSUOLO on the outskirts of MODENA with incident. Reconnaissance Company captured two prisoners of war and C Company captured one. The Battalion Command Post closed on night of 22nd in vicinity of GUIGLIA.

23 - GUIGLIA - Reconnaissance Company was relieved parent unit control at 0600 hours on the 24th and attached to 34th Infantry Division. The Battalion Command Post closed in new area vicinity MARANELLO at 1645 hours of the 24th. The Company captured 400 prisoners. They also ran into enemy who opened fire. Three of these were killed and some escaped. Thereafter they opened fire on three other enemy prisoners but all three escaped. At this point new missions were given to our units. One force under Captain Schaeffer, Commanding Officer, C Company consisting of two Tank Destroyer platoons was assigned the mission of helping clear two enemy self propelled guns which were giving 34th Division Reconnaissance units trouble. Pvt Trujillo, Headquarters Company captured one prisoner in the vicinity of ZOCCA.

24 - MARANELLO

ELLO - The Command Post of Company A was located at SISTA, 27 miles

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

below GENOA with the 1st and 3rd platoons attached to the 473rd Infantry. The 2nd Platoon was located at Aulla and was attached to the 370th Infantry. The 1st Platoon of Company B crossed the Po River on the 24th in support of the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry Regiment and arrived Verona at 0830B hours. They covered the crossing of the ADIGE RIVER by the 339th Infantry Regiment. The Schaefer Force arrived at its objective without incident or enemy contact at 1930 B. Friendly infantry was moving up by truck and had not arrived. The Infantry arrived at 0015B and moved up into positions along the CANALE DI SECCHIA. Reconnaissance units went all the way up to CASTEL NOVO NE MONTE without encountering enemy forces. The roads were in excellent condition with only two blown bridges but each of these had a good by-pass. When the reconnaissance troops arrived in CASTELNOVO they found that the town was in the hands of Partisans and no German troops were in the vicinity. The Infantry move up to the ENZA RIVER line with no contact with the enemy. The roads were in excellent condition where the Battalion Command Post closed area vicinity of MARANELLO at 1925B hours and moved to vicinity of Traversetolo. During the period several vehicles were captured along with prisoners. A flanking movement Reconnaissance Company attempted and an enemy Field Artillery battery on the road was trapped which consisted of 6 motor transports towing 2 105mm guns at a road junction. This battery was destroyed by our fire. Ten enemy were killed, 20 wounded and 50 prisoners were taken. Reconnaissance Company then worked northwest to cut Highway 9 and destroyed 5 horsedrawn carts and many enemy personnel.

25 - MARAN

ELLO - The Command Post of Company A was located at Rappolla 18 miles below Genoa. The 1st and 3rd platoons, also at this location, fired 60 rounds HE. at an enemy strong point north RAPPOLLA. The 2nd platoon was located at VILLAFRANCA. The 1st Platoon of Company B covered the crossing of the ADIGE RIVER by the 338th Infantry Regiment. Our armor moved up the the Infantry to a phase line along the PARMA RIVER between MAMIANO and VILLANOVA. The Schaefer force moved to VILLANOVA closing at 1405B and at this point captured one prisoner. Reconnaissance Company left LESIGNANO on the morning of 26 April with the mission of moving into COLLECCHIO. Arriving 1 mile north of the town they were halted by bazooka and small arms fire. Two prisoners were captured. The Company's mission was changed and they moved to CASENUOVE. Company C Captured one prisoner on the 26th.

26 - MARAN

ELLO - The Company Command Post of Company A was on the northwest

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

outskirts of Genoa. The 1st and 3rd Platoons entered Genoa at 0800 hours on the 27th and found the city in the hands of Partisans. The 2nd platoon of Company B crossed the PO RIVER and contacted the 85th Infantry Division at CASTLEBELFORTE and moved on to ERBE for a push on VERONA. There was the first armor in VIGASIO AND C'ITE VILLABROIA. They crossed into VERONA and were relieved from attached to the 85th Infantry Division and returned to parent unit control. The 3rd Platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion of the 168th Infantry Regiment on the 27th and moved to PIDENA. Company C was given the mission of moving from the VILLANOVA area to COLLECCHIO. Two platoons of infantry were carried on the Tank Destroyers on the move. The Company closed at 2400 hours. At 1000 hours the Company, along with the BEF Infantry began the assault on COLLECCHIO. Enemy machine gun and mortar fire was encountered and some rounds of self-propelled fire. By 1302 hours all enemy resistance that was organized had ceased but mopping up operations went on. The Company, with the Infantry and Company A, 760th Tank Battalion, captured 320 prisoners. At 1500 hours The Company was detached parent unit, and released from control of the BEF, and was attached to the 34th Infantry Division. During the afternoon of the 27th Reconnaissance Company's 1st and 2nd Platoon moved to FIORENZUOLA and was attached to 34th Infantry Division Reconnaissance. The 3rd platoon was ordered on a reconnaissance north of PARMA. Contact was made with the enemy and approximately 100 prisoners were taken. The 3rd platoon then returned to FIORENZUOLA. The 1st and 2nd platoons moved south to CASTEL REGUALO and VAL D'ARDA. No contact was made and both platoons returned to FIORENZUOLA and set up road blocks.

27 - MARAN

ELLO - The Command Post of Company A remained in the vicinity of Genoa with the 1st and 3rd platoons occupying the high ground north west of the city. The 1st platoon of Company B maintained road blocks in the BRESCIA area. The 2nd platoon formed road blocks at PALHARTO. The 3rd platoon aided in negotiations between our troops and Major General Myers of the enemy. 140 prisoners were captured and 2 pilots who were prisoners of the enemy were freed one being American and one British. The Company was relieved from attached to the 85th Infantry Division and attached to the 34th Infantry Division. Company C was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of FIDENZA and was relieved attached to the 34th Infantry Division effective 1400 hours on the 28th and reverted to parent unit control. They were given the mission of relieving Company A, 755th Tank Battalion in PIACENZA and supporting the BEF Infantry there. Reconnaissance Company moved from the FIORENZUOLA area to the BOZZOLA area arriving at 2000 hours on the 27th.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

28 - MARAN

ELLO - The Command Post of Company A along with the 1st and 3rd platoons remained in vicinity of GENOA. Company B was the 1st armor to enter OSPITATELLO entered on the 29th. The 3rd Platoon moved through NOVATO and CASTENA PRIMA. Company C placed an armored road block around PIACENZA. Reconnaissance Company moved to BRESCIA arriving at 0400 hours on the 29th and set up road blocks around the town. No enemy contact was made. The Battalion Command Post moved from vicinity of TRAVERSETOLO to vicinity of FIORENZUOLA D'ARDA, closing in new area at 1100 hours on the 29th.

29 - FIOREN

ZUOLA- Company A remained in vicinity of GENOA. The 1st Platoon of Co C supported movement of the 3rd Battalion, 168th Infantry, to CUGGINS. The 2nd Platoon moved to GRACICCHIO FORNACE and set up road blocks. Company C remained in road block positions about the city of PIACENZA. Huge piles of small arms weapons and ammunition for all types of weapons and hundreds of transport were turned over to our troops by the enemy. The enemy was still surrendering after the capitulation to our forces on the 29th. Up to the end of the 30th prisoners ran well over 8,000.

28 - 30

FIOREN

ZUOLA- The 28th through the 30th found elements of the Battalion taking and guarding prisoners. S/Sgt Wald of Reconnaissance Company was credited with capturing 300 of the enemy who were occupying the hill mass town of VEZZANO. This was accomplished after 5 hours of resistance by Sgt Wald's volunteering to see if he could make the enemy surrender. He crawled up to the town, captured two prisoners, and interrogating them found out the location of the Commanding Officer. He then rushed the Commanding Officer and stuck the muzzle of his Tommy Gun into the German Officers' stomach and gave him the ultimatum of surrendering his men or else; -- They surrendered. Sgt Fitzgerald of Reconnaissance Company also moved his platoon to another strong point house, vicinity of BRESCIA and they shot it out with the enemy, killing 10, wounding 15, and capturing 20.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

The following is an account of the most outstanding action of A Co., 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion, while attached to the 92nd Infantry Division and 442 Regimental Combat Team.

The first platoon of A Company on the morning of the 10th was attached to the second Battalion of the 473rd Regiment. The Battalion at this time was located in the southwestern part of MASSA just south of the FRIGIDO RIVER. At 1200 hours the battalion commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 473 Regiment had given orders to the 1st platoon of Tank Destroyers to find positions where they could fire on enemy strong points that were holding up the entire battalion from crossing the river. At 1300 hours the platoon was in position on the high ground 900 yards southeast of the river. From 1315 hours to 1600 hours the destroyers fired into buildings designated by the Infantry Commander on the north side of the river. At 1600 hours all enemy strong points were destroyed, and the 1st platoon was told to cease firing. At 1630 hours the Commanding Officer asked the platoon of destroyers to fire on targets on the northeastern section of MASSA, that were holding up the advance of the first battalion. The destroyers fired upon these targets using the same position. The targets consisted of enemy machine gun nests in houses. The houses were taken under fire immediately and destroyed. This enabled the battalion to resume their advance. The known damage from firing were five enemy machine guns destroyed and thirty two enemy personnel killed or wounded in a large factory. The platoon received approximately sixty rounds of enemy artillery in the area from which they were firing.

The platoon didn't suffer any casualties, and was complimented highly for their aggressiveness and assistance in preparing the way for the infantry's advance.

The second platoon, attached to the 3rd Battalion 370th Infantry Combat Team, approached the southern outskirts of S.S. ANNUNZIATA and PONTREMOLI on or about 24 April 1945. In this instance the only armor was the Tank Destroyers acting as an advance guard with the 3rd platoon, Company "L", 370th Infantry. The speed of the advance forced the Infantry to ride the vehicles. The advance guards mission was to contact the enemy, and if possible deny the enemy the use of S.S. ANNUNZIATA and PONTREMOLI.

The lead destroyer observed enemy personnel on the hills to the right and left of the town. All guns, including the 50 and 30 cal. machine guns opened fire. Under this covering fire the infantry dismounted, preparatory to continuing the advance. Enemy mortar and artillery fire covered our area and the infantry was temporarily unable to continue the advance. Due to the irregularity of the terrain, the destroyers were road-bound, and a minefield about 25 yards to the front caused a temporary halt. Under the covering fire set up by the destroyers the infantry was able to reorganize. In conjunction with the infantry commander's plan to secure the hill masses on both sides of the town, the destroyers placed fire with all available weapons on targets of opportunity. Under this fire the infantry was able to secure the high ground, and at 0600 hours 25 April 1945 an unopposed entry was made into SS. ANNUNZIATA.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

The Infantry commander verbally commended the action of the destroyers for enabling the infantry to continue the advance and close with the enemy.

The platoon did not suffer any casualties, and was complimented highly for their aggressiveness and assistance in preparing the way for the infantry's advance.

The outstanding action of the third platoon, took place 8 April 1945, in the town of TURANO, ITALY. The platoon was a part of Task Force Turner commanded by Captain Turner, 758 Tank Battalion (Lt). The task force was composed of one platoon of light tanks, 758 Tank Battalion, one platoon of medium tanks, 760 Tank Battalion and the third platoon of Company "A". The mission of the force was to take TURANO and feel out enemy rear guard action in MASSA. The force was to operate with one battalion of the 473rd Infantry Regiment.

The town of TURANO is located on a reverse slope as approached from the south. It is composed of nothing more than a single narrow street lined with two story houses. At the north end of the town is a large hill that commands the street. This street was the axis of advance and the only armored approach. As the south end of the town is the crest of the slope that the town is built on. On the skyline of this crest the road was blown and mined.

As the force, accompanied by infantry approached the town it was subjected to heavy and continual artillery fire. As the point of the force consisting of three light tanks entered the town two of the three were lost because of mines. The third continued followed by the medium platoon, and the Tank Destroyers. The mission of the third platoon was to move to the north side of town and cover the left flank of force as it moved to MASSA. The third platoon moved and enroute took under fire a machine gun nest on the hill at the end of the street. One light tank moved ahead of the destroyers as reconnaissance. As the destroyers reached the designated position the light tank was knocked out by bazooka fire. The Tank Destroyers opened fire with machine guns covering the advance of the Infantry. At the moment the medium platoon was bypassing the Tank Destroyers to move on MASSA the entire task force was taken under fire by an anti-tank gun firing from the right front. The lead tank of the mediums was hit and disabled. The first gun of the Tank Destroyer section returned the fire. At this moment there were five tanks and two Tank Destroyers in a narrow street, canalized under anti-tank and small arms fire. As the first gun of the destroyer section fired the second was rammed completely inside a building thereby not only covering himself as much as possible but allowing the task force to displace to positions to return the fire of the enemy gun. But for the immediate displacement of the second Tank Destroyer other vehicles would have been lost. The advance was resumed later in the day.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

The platoon didn't suffer any casualties, and was complimented highly for their aggressiveness and assistance in preparing the way for the infantry's advance.

Attached to the Brazilian Expeditionary Force the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion (-Co. A) with A and D Companies 760 Tank Battalion (Mediums and lights) attached, was responsible for the anti-tank defense of all Brazilian Expeditionary Force units supported. At the time positions were static: Tanks and Tank Destroyers were moved to covering positions on high ground. All direct fire positions were carefully selected.

The coordinated attack by the Brazilian Expeditionary Force and 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion on MONTESE, from 14 to 19 April aided materially the all out thrust of IV corps forces on the left flank of Corps sector. Though a diversionary push was intended and effected towards MONTESE by the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, it was also an important route of approach to the PANARO RIVER valley.

This Armored Task Force reached their objective with ease and assisted in the capture of 150 P.W.'s. There were an estimated 70 enemy casualties inflicted on the enemy by direct fire from the armor. Over 600 rounds 3" gun; 200 rounds, 75mm and 76mm Guns; 90 rounds, 37mm Gun, were fired at the enemy in this operation. During the attack on MONTESE very heavy mortar and artillery concentrations were experienced.

The following is an account of the most outstanding action of Co. B, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion from 21 April 1945 to 23 April 1945 while attached to the 85th Infantry Division:

Company B, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion was committed in direct support of 85th Infantry division and missions were as follows. 3rd Platoon with 338th Regiment, mission to cover and protect entirely exposed right flank. 2nd platoon with 2nd Battalion, 337th Regiment, mission to provide close support, and reduce any strong points encountered. 1st Platoon with 2nd Battalion 338th Regiment, mission to move forward with infantry and sever and hold enemy communication and supply routes, along Highway 9, and adjacent road nets, west of Bologna.

Two platoons of 751 Tank Battalion, Co. B, were working with 2nd Platoon.

Various enemy units were encountered, only identifiable unit was 249th Regiment, Mountain Infantry. They were supported by tanks, self propelled guns and some artillery.

Terrain was hilly in 2nd and 3rd Platoon sectors. Enemy demolitions were encountered, but provided little hindrance to our armor.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Entire action was fought at night, the darkness providing cover for our movements, but also aiding the enemies movement.

The situation was extremely fluid, with the result that the enemy was split into several pockets, by our rapid advance. This also resulted in our elements receiving fire, from unexpected quarters, flanks, and rear. Heavy sniper fire and automatic weapons fire was encountered at all points. Enemy mortar, and artillery fire was relatively light, and intermittent. Tanks and Self Propelled guns, were encountered, and engaged by our armor. Their Self Propelled gun fire proved inaccurate, and little effect on our units, other than harassing was reported. The enemy attempt to disengage, and rescue his encircled units, resulted in considerable confusion, in which various infiltration attempts were made. The majority of these were repulsed, and many prisoners were taken. Our units suffered no casualties.

The enemy was overrun by our units and divided into several isolated groups. Their escape was effectively blocked off, and they were pinned down, by our fire, and armored threat, until the infantry elements, could mop them up. Regimental exposed flank, was successfully covered, enabling their advance to proceed. Highway 9 was cut by our 1st Platoon, supported infantry and a 3,00 yard penetration of defensive zone, on north side of Highway 9 was completed, by 0800 hours next morning.

2nd platoon was credited by the Infantry with the destruction of three Self Propelled guns. 1st platoon destroyed three enemy strong points, containing three machine guns. Total prisoner count, forty seven (47). Estimate of prisoners rounded up by Tank Destroyers and turned over to Infantry between 70 and 80. Estimated casualties inflicted on enemy, twenty five (25) killed: forty eight (48) wounded. Forced abandonment of eleven horse drawn and five motor vehicles, with their subsequent capture.

3rd platoon of Lt Johnson occupied a hazardous and exposed position throughout the hours of darkness, until the infantry came up several hours later. His position was subjected to considerable small arms fire, which was continuous. His presence removed the threat to the 338th Regiments right flank. 1st platoon of Lt. Exkman, closely supporting the 2nd Battalion's Commanding Officer. 2nd platoon of Lt. Arant drove a wedge between enemy units, giving direct support to hard pressed infantry units and closely assisted in mopping up and destroying enemy pockets. The platoon on more than one occasion was completely surrounded., but maintained their position after other armored units had withdrawn.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

The following is an account of the most outstanding action of Reconnaissance Company 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion which occurred on the 25 April 1945:

From RUBIERA on 30 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company's mission, along with the 34th Division Reconnaissance Troops, was to cross the ENZA RIVER and to proceed as far and to the northwest as possible.

At that time we were attached to the 34th Division Reconnaissance Troop. There were no infantry elements present.

The 3rd platoon, Company B of the 755 Tank Battalion was also attached to the 34th Reconnaissance Troop and were present.

We encountered a fully equipped German F.A. Battery at Vezzano, complete with field guns, prime movers, command and service cars and small arms. The number of the F. A. unit is unknown.

There were no difficulties of major importance, except for the time involved in driving the enemy personnel into the open. A pincer maneuver had to be employed.

The German unit was taken by surprise, as they offered no resistance other than small arms fire. We had no casualties.

Our plan of attack was to outflank the enemy, flush him out of his positions and drive him into our fire. As we attacked from the right, the plan consisted of the 34th Reconnaissance Troop continuing up the main highway and 894th Rcn Co. utilizing the side roads off to the right. The tanks stayed where they were on the main highway, for long range support. The M-8's of the 894th Reconnaissance moved slowly up the sideroads, wiping out snipers and machine gun fire as they progressed. After two hours of slow, but steady progress, they succeeded in moving the enemy from their now exposed position. They tried to make a break for it, coupling their heavy guns to the prime movers and loading the personnel on all available vehicles. They filed out in convoy on a lateral road not three hundred yards from the highway and two hundred from the ready and waiting 37mm guns of the 34th Reconnaissance Troop. Simultaneously, every able bodied soldier who was in possession of some sort of weapon, whether it was a 37mm cannon or a 45 pistol, showered fire at the convoy. This was the final decisive action.

Probably the most outstanding action was the combined teamwork and near perfect coordination of the 894th and 34th Reconnaissance Companies. The two units worked in unison from beginning to end to decisively defeat the enemy in the least time possible.

The 894th Reconnaissance Company, received many words of praise from Colonel Martin, G-3 of the 34th Division. He conveyed his thanks to the officers and men of the Company.

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BATTALION HISTORY 894th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

At 271000E April 1945 the Armored Task Force comprised of C Company 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion and C Company, 760 Tank Battalion began the assault on COLLECHIO in support of an infantry battalion of the 1st Regiment Brazilian Expeditionary Force.

The mission of the Armored Task Force was to isolate all enemy in the vicinity of COLLECHIO and cut Highway 62 above COLLECHIO, vicinity FORNOVO P-913-743, in opposition to the friendly armor and infantry was estimated to be elements of the 148 Jaeger Division, Italia and Monte Rosa Divisions. Strength was unknown but it was known that enemy had artillery, mortar, S/P and A/T support.

The terrain was favorable for armor. The Medium Tanks were used to pincer the towns perimeter westward, in close proximity to the town, while the Tank Destroyer's took a wider pincer's move, to give the medium tanks maximum A/T protection.

The entire action worked smoothly, all organized resistance vicinity COLLECHIO ceased at 1300 B. The Task Force working with the Brazilian Expeditionary secured 320 P.W.'s.

The friendly armor had disrupted enemy defenses so badly that two 75mm Anti-tank guns and crews were demolished, a 20mm anti-aircraft gun and crew and an 81mm mortar and crew were captured intact. A German 150mm infantry assault gun in the process of being displaced by a half-track and crew was taken under direct fire and demolished. While moving South on Highway 62 towards FORNOVO, the 3rd platoon of C Company, 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion was fired on by an enemy A/T gun. 3" gun fire was immediately returned, killing 2 of the A/T gun crew and knocking out the gun.

Due to the aggressiveness of the armor, COLLECHIO was secured, Highway 62 out and an effective road block established. Consequently with additional armor and infantry pressure, all enemy forces comprised of the 148 Jaeger Division, Monte Rosa and Italia Divisions capitulated resulting in 15,000 P.W.'s and their equipment being taken. There were no armored vehicle casualties during this operation.

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BATTALION HISTORY 89th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APRIL 1945:

GAINS DURING THE MONTH

OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED:	2	ATTACHED:	0
WARRANT OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED:	1	ATTACHED:	0
ENLISTED MEN:	ASSIGNED:	40	ATTACHED:	0

LOSSES DURING THE MONTH

OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED:	4	ATTACHED:	0
WARRANT OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED:	0	ATTACHED:	0
ENLISTED MEN:	ASSIGNED:	51	ATTACHED:	0

STRENGTH OF THE BATTALION AT MIDNIGHT 30 APRIL 1945

OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED:	34	ATTACHED:	0
WARRANT OFFICERS:	ASSIGNED:	2	ATTACHED:	0
ENLISTED MEN:	ASSIGNED:	603	ATTACHED:	0

BATTLE CASUALTIES:

Dedmore, Chester T.	Tec 4	37087863	LWA	7 April 1945
Harrison, Talmage E.	Tec 4	34051480	LIA	9 April 1945
Bostick, Arthur F.	Sgt	36553022	SWA	9 April 1945
Vidrine, Didier	S/Sgt	14023871	SWA	9 April 1945
Rennell, Albert F.	Pfc	36733978	SWA	9 April 1945
Marshall, Roy R.	Tec 4	36240397	SWA	9 April 1945
Barsky, William	Pvt	39024430	MIA	9 April 1945
Barton, Forrest E.	2nd Lt	01824485	MIA	9 April 1945
Howarth, Allen D.	Tec 5	36546694	LWA	9 April 1945
Freeman, Wayne L.	Cpl	37116292	MIA	9 April 1945
Gosnell, Rufus J.	Pvt	34593407	KIA	9 April 1945
Herrin, Harold D.	Pfc	37133194	SWA	9 April 1945
Casey, Charles G.	Cpl	33531498	KIA	9 April 1945
Berrick, Solon	Sgt	32088408	SWA	9 April 1945
Stover, Wade E.	Pfc	36540053	LIA	9 April 1945
Withem, John T.	Pvt	17053216	LIA	11 April 1945
DePamphilis, Donald D.	Cpl	20254696	SWA	14 April 1945
Kennedy, James C.	1st Lt	01312679	LWA	14 April 1945
Kraft, Frederick L.	1st Lt	0438746	LWA	23 April 1945
Doyle, Tom	Sgt	33049081	LWA	26 April 1945
Flowers, A. J.	Tec 5	34051450	LWA	30 April 1945
Johnson, Frederick O.	Pfc	34015803	LWA	30 April 1945
Hilburn, Melvin	Tec 5	38178452	KIA	30 April 1945

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