

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS 636th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Office of the Battalion Commander

APO 464, U. S. Army
5 May 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Records.

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

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in Letter, Allied Force Headquarters, dated 20 April 1943, file AG 314.7/389 C-M, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of Organizations, transmitted herewith Operations in Italy, April 1944 of this Battalion.

2. Conclusions:

During the past month this battalion has been in a rear area engaged in training and in servicing and replacement of equipment.

War Department Training Circular No. 2, dated 7 January 1944, has reached us and it broadens the use of Tank Destroyer Units as reinforcing artillery. Our employment during the last operation brought clearly to our attention the need of personnel to operate fire direction centers and since we have followed Training Circular No. 2 in training this need of personnel for a fire direction center has been emphasized even more forcibly.

Actually each company needs some personnel for fire control when firing artillery missions as well as a central control center at battalion headquarters, but any provision that can be made, even if it is only a limited number of personnel to be used at the battalion headquarters, will be an improvement over the present Table of Organization.

Reagan L. Dubose
REAGAN L. DUBOSE
Major, Infantry
Actg Bn Comdr

- 1 Incl:
Narrative of Operations for the month
of April 1944, with attached annexes

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HEADQUARTERS 636th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464, U. S. Army

3 May 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, APRIL 1944

The first of April found the Battalion in the 36th Infantry Division area near Maddaloni. Most of the work taking place in this area was maintenance and small arms and machine gun firing. All companies cleaned their vehicles and most of the vehicles were given a new coat of camouflage paint. As much entertainment as possible was furnished the men of the Battalion in the way of picture shows, live shows, passes, and mass athletics.

On April 3d the S-3 and S-1 went with the G-3 and a party from 36th Infantry Division to reconnoiter new positions for the Division and attached units. The area covered was in the vicinity of Trentola. Quartering parties were directed not to go out until sent by Division.

On April 8th the Division Commander presented Silver Stars to officers and men of this command at a Battalion review held in honor of the officers and men to be decorated. Those decorated were Lt Colonel VAN W. PYLAND, 2d Lt ALPHONSE J. BOYSA, Cpl JOHN L. COWAN, and Pvt CHESTER SCOTT.

During the afternoon of April 8th the S-3 and S-4 left for the vicinity of Avellino to select a new bivouac area. G-3, 36th Infantry Division, led the parties from the Division and attached units.

The Battalion began movement to the new area at 1245 April 9th. The final elements closed in the new area at 1700. The new Battalion bivouac area was located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Celzi in the vicinity of 635505.

Battalion bivouac areas were improved and maintenance of vehicles was carried on April 10th and 11th. A Battalion training schedule was started on April 12th.

On April 12th the Battalion Commander, Lt Colonel VAN W. PYLAND, was transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot to await surface transportation to the United States. On April 13th Colonel JAMES C. FRY, was placed on TD with the Battalion, per Ltr Hqs, 36th Infantry Division, dtd 13 April 1944.

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During the period April 17th to 21st all firing companies conducted direct firing with 3 inch guns on a range selected by the S-3. Approximately 30 rounds per gun were used in this training. Individuals who had not fired small arms completed firing of these weapons.

On April 21st Colonel FRY was detached from this organization and sent to the 88th Division. Major DuBose became acting Battalion Commander.

All companies went through the gas chamber under the direction of Captain Kinnison. Staff Officers made an inspection of the companies on April 22d.

On April 25th the S-3, 36th Division Artillery, gave a class on observed and unobserved fire. Company Commanders and Executive Officers attended.

On April 26th the Acting Battalion Commander, S-3, and Reconnaissance Company Commander made a reconnaissance of firing positions for the Battalion on the II Corps front. The S-3 took the Company Commanders forward on April 28th and went over future positions with them. Since it was found that bull-dozers could not be used to dig the M-1C's in plans were made for sending personnel forward to do the work.

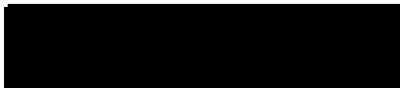
During the morning of April 29th the Division Artillery sent artillery instruction teams to each one of the line companies. The Commanding General, Division Artillery, visited the Companies in the morning also. He watched a demonstration on the sub-caliber range at Company "B".

On April 30th the S-3, S-1, and Company Commander, Co "A", went forward to the gun positions to choose routes of approach and to discuss the camouflage problem with the 88th Division Camouflage Officer. Positions were chosen and passed on by the camouflage officer, Captain Rice.

Map Reference: Italy 1:50,000

Attached Annexes:

1. Copy of Unit Journal
2. Overlays of Positions
3. Personnel Casualties during period
4. Materiel destroyed or damaged by enemy action
5. Enemy casualties caused by 636th TD Bn during period
6. Awards and Decorations.
7. Officers' Roster



For the Battalion Commander:

James D. Evans
JAMES D. EVANS
Captain, Infantry
Unit Historian



ANNEX NO. 3

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

GRADE	ASN	DATE OF CASUALTY	TYPE OF CASUALTY	PLACE OF RESIDENCE
<u>COMPANY "A"</u>				
*INGRAM, HAROLD V.	Pvt 1 c1	35434336	28 Apr 44 Killed	Farmers, Kentucky

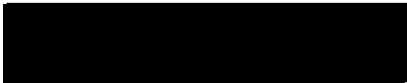
*Accidentally killed while Company "A" was on firing range. Soldier was killed when Company "A" was bringing an M-20 Armored Car from the firing range. The Armored Car ran over a mine, killing him instantly.

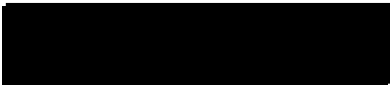
ANNEX NO. 3


ANNEX NO. 4

MATERIEL DESTROYED OR DAMAGED
BY ENEMY ACTION

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
Car, armored, utility, M-20	28 April 1944	Evacuated

ANNEX NO. 4

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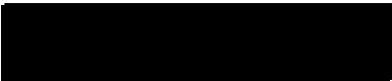


ANNEX NO. 5

ENEMY CASUALTY REPORT

1. Total rounds of 3" ammunition expended during this period for training purposes was 2160 rounds.
2. Estimated enemy personnel killed: None.
3. Enemy materiel destroyed: None.

ANNEX NO. 5



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ANNEX NO. 6

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

For the period from 1 September 1943 to 30 April 1944, the following named members of this organization have been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK OR GRADE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
PYLAND, VAN W.	0-236089	Lt Col	Hq
PEARSON, ALEC P.	0-394225	Capt	Co "A"
GOULD, GLENN E.	0-1823729	1st Lt	Hq Co
BOYSA, ALPHONSE J.	0-1301601	1st Lt	Co "C"
COLE, WILLIAM H.	0-1703021	2d Lt	Co "C"
DODSON, ROBERT L.	0-2055900	2d Lt	Co "B"
MURPHY, RAYMOND G.	20802898	Stf Sgt	Co "C"
SPARKS, OSCAR G.	38035783	Stf Sgt	Co "B"
PATTERSON, ROBERT E.	38038542	Sgt	Co "C"
YOST, EDWIN A.	37146627	Sgt	Co "C"
BENTLEY, HESTER L.	34333328	Cpl	Co "C"
COWAN, JOHN L.	20817342	Cpl	Co "B"
JORDAN, JOSEPH H.	37163668	Cpl	Co "C"
LORANCE, CHARLES G.	20814658	Cpl	Co "C"
O'BRYAN, JOSEPH R.	35484581	Cpl	Co "C"
STERNER, KEMPS E.	13031240	Cpl	Co "C"
WELLBORN, JACK T.	38035985	Cpl	Co "C"
STEDMAN, G. D. (I.O.)	38177868	Tec 5	Co "C"
WARD, ROBERT G.	38039044	Tec 5	Co "C"
SMITH, ROY C.	37419335	Pvt 1 cl	Co "C"
STOKES, CLAUDE H.	38463151	Pvt 1 cl	Co "C"
STOKES, CLYDE T.	38463140	Pvt 1 cl	Co "C"
ANDERSON, ALBERT B.	32767048	Pvt	Co "B"
JOHNSON, ALVIN B. C.	20805648	Pvt	Co "C"
SCOTT, CHESTER (MEN)	39324290	Pvt	Co "C"

For the period from 1 September 1943 to 30 April 1944, the following named members of this organization have been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for gallantry in action:

BRUECKNER, MORITZ F.	0-1168206	Capt	Co "C"
RAU, ROMAN J.	37163423	Cpl	Co "B"
DIETRICH, JOHN W.	38039700	Tec 5	Med Det
ANTOLIK, EMIL J.	33348166	Pvt	Co "C"
MONROE, VURGEL (MEN)	36419449	Pvt	Co "C"
SCHUMACHER, RAYMOND E.	37444040	Pvt	Co "C"

ANNEX NO. 7

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DUTY</u>
<u>Hq and Hq Company</u>				
DUBOSE, REAGAN L.	0-348064	Major	Inf	Actg Bn Comdr
CAMERON, OLIN W.	0-407591	Capt	Inf	Hq Co CO
DANZI, RICHARD A.	0-1822375	Capt	FA	S-3
EVANS, JAMES D.	0-1294639	Capt	Inf	S-1
FERGUSON, JAMES R.	0-418363	Capt	FA	S-4
KINNISON, PAUL (NMN)	0-344051	Capt	Inf	S-2
BROWN, STANLEY G.	0-1289038	1st Lt	Inf	Hq Co Ex O
GOULD, GLENN E.	0-1823729	1st Lt	FA	Ln O
HAUCK, HENRY G.	0-1822567	1st Lt	FA	Com O
STOFFEL, ROBERT L.	0-1168483	1st Lt	FA	Trans O
VEEVERS, FREDERICK C.	0-1171809	1st Lt	FA	Ln O
WHITE, ROY D.	0-403563	1st Lt	Inf	Ln O
WITTEN, GEORGE R.	0-1824263	1st Lt	FA	Motor O
*WADLEIGH, RICHARD R.	0-1823526	2d Lt	FA	Ass't S-2
TUCKER, JESSE F.	W-2131525	WOJG		Pers O
<u>Medical Detachment</u>				
BURKHART, JEAN M.	0-380858	Capt	MC	Bn Surgeon
<u>Reconnaissance Company</u>				
DOWNES, GEORGE W.	0-1288024	Capt	Inf	CO
BARRY, JOHN J.	0-1822942	1st Lt	FA	Pioneer O
GERRINGER, LINLEY W.	0-1168246	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
MC KEE, PAUL R.	0-1823909	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
RODGERS, REYNOLDS D.	0-1288125	1st Lt	Inf	Ex O
WALTER, WILLIAM F.	0-1824256	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
*PLOTKIN, MAURICE J.	0-1822451	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
*REINHARD, ALVIN F.	0-1823349	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
<u>Company "A"</u>				
GRAHAM, ROBERT E.	0-1168254	1st Lt	FA	CO
DAVIS, VORIS B.	0-1822376	1st Lt	Inf	Ex O
GOLDMAN, BERT M.	0-1168247	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
LONG, JAMES W.	0-1823173	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
*DUTTON, HAROLD G.	0-1823132	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
REEVES, WILLIAM M.	0-1703022	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr

ANNEX NO. 7

ANNEX NO. 7 CONT'D

Company "B"

BROWN, HENRY F.	0-1168187	Capt	FA	CO
GROOM, KENNETH G.	0-1824174	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
METZNER, ELMER J.	0-1168376	1st Lt	FA	Ex O
RECTOR, ELMO W.	0-1307167	1st Lt	Inf	Plat Comdr
DODSON, ROBERT L.	0-2055900	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
*TEMPLE, JOHN M.	0-1316468	2d Lt	Inf	Plat Comdr
WRIGHT, WILLIAM E.	0-1703006	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr

Company "C"

BRUECKNER, MORITZ F.	0-1168190	Capt	FA	CO
DRISCOLL, EUGENE J.	0-1175104	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
BOYSA, ALPHONSE J.	0-1301601	1st Lt	Inf	Plat Comdr
GROMMET, GEORGE P.	0-462575	1st Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
ZIEGLER, MAURICE S.	0-1168535	1st Lt	FA	Ex O
COLE, WILLIAM H.	0-1703021	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr
*HESS, GEORGE M.	0-1824314	2d Lt	FA	Plat Comdr

* Officers attached for Temporary Duty from Personnel Center #6.