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HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

MAY 1945

494TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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INDENTIFIED BY [Signature]

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HEADQUARTERS
494TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 262, U. S. Army

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, 12th Armored Division.

In accordance with Unnumbered Memorandum, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, dated 7 Jan 1945 and Memorandum, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, subject, "Unit Histories", dated 15 May 1945, the Unit History for the period 1 to 10 May 1945 is hereby submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Alfred R. Tyler
ALFRED R TYLER
2d Lt, FA
Adjutant

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: *AWND-13587*
Date: *11/11/01*

HEADQUARTERS
494TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 262, U. S. Army

10 May 1945

NARRATIVE

During the period 1 May to 10 May 1945, except for the first three days, the battalion was in the general vicinity of Burgau (WX9785) - Gunzburg (WX8787) with the mission of occupying surrounding territory and acting as Security Police. On the 1st of May the battalion was in position at Zell, Germany (XY6905) under control of Combat Command "B" with no definite mission other than waiting orders in the present position. There was no evidence of enemy action for the first three days, however the battalion fired its last round of 105mm howitzer ammunition, which consisted of two rounds of smoke fired in adjustment of defensive fires by 1st Lt David T. Weston and 1st Lt Hugh Robinson. The total number of rounds fired by this battalion since it entered combat is 57,594. Period covered from 5 December 1944 to 2 May 1945. The following day a message was received that the battalion was to be attached to the 2d French Armored Division. A few hours later the orders were changed and the battalion moved 7.1 miles to vicinity of Benediktbeuern (WX7507). Upon completion of the march this battalion reverted to 12th Armored Division Artillery control. In the absence of any definite enemy action the enemy front lines could not be determined.

The battalion moved 101.3 miles on 5 May to Burgau, sight of a previous battle on 26 April 1945 and batteries took up the following positions: Headquarters Battery -- Burgau, A Battery -- Offingen (WX9490), B Battery -- Unter Knoringen (WX9685), C Battery -- Jettingen (WX0080) and Service Battery -- Schoppach (XY082). The mission of the battalion at this point was to occupy and patrol all the roads surrounding the battalion area. The boundaries to the north included all the towns up to the Danube River between Offingen and Dillingen. The border on the south extended from Thannhausen to the Mindel River on the east.

The eventful day of 7 May 1945, the battalion received a message at 0746 from Division Artillery which read as follows: "A representative of the German High Command signed the unconditional surrender of all German Land, Sea and Air Forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Forces and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command at 0140 hours Central European Time, 7 May 1945, under which all forces will cease active operations at 0001B hours, 9 May 1945. Effective immediately all offensive operations by Allied Expeditionary Forces will cease and troops will remain in present positions".

Battalion remained in position during the remainder of the period, patrolling the new area for reconnaissance assigned by 12th Armored Division Headquarters, attached "B" Battery, 572d Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion relieved from attachment to this battalion on 9 May 1945 to return to parent unit.

Harold M Crawford
HAROLD M CRAWFORD
Lt Colonel, Field Artillery
Commanding

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