

714th TANK BATTALION – NARRATIVE OF ACTIONS – MAY 1945

1 May 1945: At 0500 Co C, 714th Tank Battalion was preparing to move into a blocking area to permit Task Force Norton to cross the Lech River in the vicinity of Sindelsdorf. At 0800 the bailey bridge which was to carry Task Force Norton across the river was swept away and the unit was ordered to remain in its present location. A company commanders meeting was held at 1100. The Task Force Commander issued verbal operating instructions. No enemy information at this time. At 1300 the unit was ordered to proceed on to the objective. At 1400 Co C entered Benidictbuern, the unit followed and occupied the town. At 1600 orders to proceed to Bad Tolz, unit to follow Task Force Norton, the objective being Weisbach. The CO stated that the unit would not move till morning. The CP was set up and security posted. The unit was expecting a counterattack by SS troops. At 2200 no unusual activities had occurred. A total of 14 PWs were taken during the day's operations.

2 May 1945: At 0800 the unit was in the assembly area and the security was still outposted. No unusual activities during the night. At 1200 a group of six Yugoslavian partisans came into town with 50 PWs. At 1400 the unit was informed that it would stay in its present location indefinitely.

3 May 1945: The unit was in Benidictbuern performing usual duties. An order was received to prepare to move on 5 May on order. One light tank section was sent to CC-B for a combat patrol on 4 May. Usual battalion duties.

5 May 1945: The unit moved at 0630 to Laupheim. The march was uneventful. At 1800 the unit halted at Ulm due to bridges being out. The Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitered for new route. At 2000 a peep hit a land mine and two persons were injured. At 2200 the unit halted outside of Ulm for the night, unable to continue the march.

6 May 1945: At 0800 the unit moved out for Laupheim. At 1100 the unit closed into Laupheim and the CP was established. The unit S-3 checked the area for targets to be guarded. Usual duties for the remainder of the day.

7 May 1945: The unit was engaged in occupying targets and establishing patrols.

8 May 1945: The unit was carrying out duties as had been prescribed, with Co A manning outposts and Hq Co establishing and maintaining contact patrols.

9 May 1945: No change in duties.

10 May 1945: No change in duties.

11 May 1945: The unit received orders to move to the vicinity of Augsburg and effect the relief of the 23rd Tank Battalion.

12 May 1945: Company C moved to Augsburg and effected the relief of elements guarding targets in that area.

13 May 1945: At 0900 Hq, Sv, and Co A moved to Augsburg and closed in at 1300. Company D moved from Blauhuren and arrived in Augsburg at 1700. The CP was established and all outposts in town and in the vicinity were taken over. Company A was still in Aicbach.

14 May 1945: The unit S-3 made a check to estimate the number of men necessary to man all posts. All companies were utilized for the guard.

15 May 1945: The unit was performing usual duties and manning outposts as prescribed.

16 May 1945: The unit received orders to move to Wertingen. Battalion Hq moved at 1400.

17 May 1945: Company B, Company A, AG Platoon, Mortar Platoon, Sv Co and Company D not relieved by 23rd Tank Battalion. At 1600 Sv Company was relieved and moved out for Wertingen. At 2000 Hq Co was relieved from outposts and moved out for Wertingen.

Period 18 May 1945 to 31 May 1945: Unit in Wertingen, Germany. Security patrols initiated throughout month and strategic points and valuable equipment outposted. During this time no unusual events occurred other than several minor complaints by local townspeople as to looting by D.P.s. Numerous suspicious persons were picked up at roadblocks and were turned over to CIC officials.

/signed/

WILLIAM R COMFORT
Major, Infantry
Commanding