

On 9 March Squadron issued a report on the damage inflicted upon the enemy elements within their zone. Up to and including 7 March, 1945, the known enemy killed numbered 60, while 25 were wounded and 125 were taken prisoner.

On 14 March Major Castles addressed the troop to explain exactly what had been required of them and what had been accomplished. He said that we had given the 35th Infantry enough support at Linffort to give them confidence in us and that - "---all the damage done there was by your eight-gun battery of 75mm Howitzers and F Company's 75mm rifles. You men of the 88th Recon Squadron took and held 5,000 yards of the West bank of the Rhine with 700 men; which was more frontage than the 291st, which was supposed to take over, care to relieve us of. They had 3,500 men." The Major cautioned the men and officers to remain with their vehicles, "----until you are sure no opposition remains. Two fine officers, Lt. Ryan and Lt. Bussert, were killed because they left their tanks after machine gun fire had been apparently subdued, and walked into a waiting trap."

At 0830 on the morning of 8 March the 291st relieved us at Budberg.

On 24th March the "Stars And Stripes" the GI daily, came out with a brief article in mild praise of the initial combat performance of the 88th Recon. Casual mention was made of the capture of a German warehouse and the resulting PX-like distribution of Wehrmacht sardines, cheese packed like toothpaste, cigarettes and candy, "----while 88s were

falling all around". It also mentioned the capture of ten freight cars on a siding loaded with heavy caliber ammo, and an ammo dump, and "--advancing on foot under heavy enemy artillery fire the squadron grabbed off 11,000 yards of the Rhine." Further, according to "Stars And Stripes", the Squadron "----swept from Lintfort straight to the Rhine,---- taking Orsoy, Stenden, Winterswick, Budberg, Dreissen, Plank, Grunland, Eversall and Milchplatz."

After Tr HQ was set up at Hinsbeck the next few days were used for rest and maintenance. On 11 March the platoons were rotated on 24 hour shifts in guarding bridges nearby which were strategic spots and in possible danger of being destroyed by saboteurs, six of whom had been captured. Their instructions had been to wait until the assault troops had gone over, and then to blow the bridges from behind. *Deer Hunting*

On 14 March we were scheduled to dry-run a river crossing but the next morning a burst watermain at the bridge caused the problem to be called off. New carbine sights were fitted and the men who received them were given an opportunity to zero in their weapons. *Nix goat Sights*

For the next few days a new system was tried with regards to the FO set-up. It was suggested that the platoon sergeants of the recon troops be taught the assault gun procedure - including all steps used in indirect fire. This would eliminate the necessity of sending officers from E Troop to act as FOs.



The medium tank outfits in the squadron were busy practicing new tactics in the countryside about us. Engineers of the 53rd picked out the first real day of Spring to set up a problem on a neighboring lake involving the use of assault boats and infantry tactics.