

Subj: Re: Task Force Baum - guarding the Saale bridge at Ham
Date: 7/27/02 1:07:05 AM Central Daylight Time
From: PDomes
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File: berkenbusch1.jpg (870843 bytes)
DL Time (37333 bps): < 6 minutes

Hello Bob,

Here is my surprise:

Since a few weeks I know a German NCO who was leader of a bazooka-team. He got the order to destroy tanks with Panzerfaust 27 March 1945 about 22:00 hours.

When he reached the OFLAG he found everything messed up - a US light tank was burning, straw was burning. An German Officer was happy to receive reinforcements and told him to go into the training area to find and destroy tanks.

He went into the training area and found two Sherman tanks driving cross country - maybe looking for the bulk of the unit.

He and his 5 men (armed with bazookas and a machine gun) were following this two tanks for about 2 hours. Every time he wanted to aim at one of the tanks he didn't get it. The night must have been very dark.

Finally the two tank reached a road drove away in speed.

The name of the NCO is Heinrich Große-Berkenbusch he is now 81 years old and he wrote me his report. He was stationed near Schweinfurt in a Flak-Battery. He drove together with Lt Bartmeier and 19 men to Hammelburg to help intercepting the attack.

Now my suggestion is, that this two tanks were the rear guard from the Saale bridge which tried to reach the bulk of the unit at the Reussenberg - and I assume, Julian must have been in one of this tanks.

If this is actualy the case - then I could arange contact to exchange experiance.

I have hattached the photo of Unteroffizier Heinrich Große-Berkenbusch 24 years old in 1945.

Best regards

Peter Domes