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HEADQUARTERS  
801st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403

7 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : Commanding General, 13th Armored Division, APO 263 U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with memorandum No. 23, Headquarters, 13th Armored Division, APO 263, U.S. Army, dated 29 March 1945, subject After Action Reports, the following reports and journals for the month of April 1945 are enclosed.

ROBERT I. McKESSON,  
Major FA, (TD),  
Commanding.

9 Incls:

- (1) After Action Narrative Report
- (2) After Action Narrative Report from 25 April 1945 to 4 May 1945.
- (3) S-1 Journal
- (4) S-2 Journal
- (5) S-2 Messages to accompany journal
- (6) S-3 Journal
- (7) S-3 Messages to accompany journal
- (8) S-3 Overlays to accompany journal
- (9) Roster of Officers



[REDACTED]

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6 May 1945

**SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.**

**TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.**

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following report is submitted for the month of April:-

**1 April - 801st T.D. Bn (-) assembled vic SEIDELHORST in Gp reserve. B Co. occupied road blocks on main roads from SEIDELHORST. C Co. moved in vic of OTTMARS-BOCHATT, placed two platoons in reserve while the third established road blocks in that area.**

**At 1500, Bn (-) moved and closed in NEWBECKUM.**

**B Co received mission of Gp security and occupied road blocks East of town.**

**The 2nd Ren platoon which was attached to B co, patrolled the roads between the road blocks.**

**A Co still attached to the 113th Cav Squadron.**

**2 April - Bn advance with Co B moved to the town of VERL.**

**B co occupied road blocks on main roads leading into town. The 2nd Ren platoon patrolled the road net around town and established contact with friendly elements in near-by towns.**

**Co A moved to a new location approximately 10 miles North of VERL. The 2nd and 3rd platoons occupied road blocks while the attached Ren platoon patrolled and made contact with them.**

**C Co moved to vic. NIEDA. The 1st platoon occupied indirect fire positions at GLANHOLZ. The 2nd platoon direct fire positions at HILDEBRONK. The 3rd platoon attached to troop A 125th Cav Squadron established road blocks with one section at FRECKELHORST and its second section at WESTQIROREN. The attached Ren platoon conducted road patrols.**

**3 April - The Bn Fwd closed in VERL and united with the advance.**

**Co A was relieved of attachment to the 113th and attached to the 125th Cav Squadron.**

**Co B with its attached Ren platoon received orders to support the 125th Cav Squadron in clearing the town of BIELEFELD. B Co fired 5 rds of APC and 20 rds of HE at enemy troops located in houses. Casualties were observed.**

**C Co moved to vic of GUTERBLOH. Its 1st and 3rd platoons occupied road blocks while its 2nd platoon and attached Ren platoon remained in reserve vic UNHELL. Thirty one PW's were captured by the 3rd platoon. A Co captured 12 PW's vic FRIEDRICHSDORF.**

**4 April - Bn CP moved to the vic of CERLINGHAUSEN.**

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5 April - Bn redesignated as 801st T.D. Bn. Self Propelled per par 1, S.O. No. 91 Hq. 9th U.S. Army dated 29 March 1945.

Co A moved to an assembly area vic of NEUMENBERGEN.

Co B occupied road blocks in the vic of HOLZHEN-REITZEN-ERONTORF. A small enemy force attacked this positions about 1200 noon. Five enemy killed, one wounded and 50 prisoners were taken. Thirty five rds of HE and small arms ammunition was expended.

Co C occupied road blocks in the vic of KACHTEN. The 3rd platoon was attacked by approximately 100 infantry. Four were killed, 4 wounded and 54 prisoners were captured. Platoon received one casualty.

Bn assembled in its present locations and moved South to the 83rd Div zone of action. The Bn CP closed in the town of HILHEIM. A, B, C Cos assembled in the vic of NEUMENBERGEN.

Letter of instructions Hq XIX Corps attaching Y and Z platoons 453rd AAA Bn to this organization. These platoons were further attached to Cos A and C respectively.

6 April - Letter of instructions No. 137 Hq. XIX Corps attaching 113th Cav Cp with the 801 TD Bn attached, to the 83rd Inf Div. The Bn CO contacted the CO of the 83rd Inf Div, received the mission of protecting Div right flank on its advance through Germany. Div boundaries were received. A plan was drawn up by this Hq to place road blocks on all roads leading into the Div sector from the right flank. Every road block was numbered. This plan was submitted to Higher Hq.

A Co moved to new positions in the vic of NEUMENBERGEN. The 1st platoon cleared town of MOWITZEN, encountering small arms fire, then occupied positions in the vic of BAD-DRIBURG.

Co B occupied positions in the vic of HORNHAUS. Third platoon occupied road blocks nos 13 and 14. One section of the Ren platoon out-posted these road blocks.

C Co moved to the vic of NIEMEIM. The first and 2nd platoons established road block in the vic of HELLERSEN, ABENBURG and ALTEBERGEN. The 3rd platoon occupied road blocks vic of SILVERSEN. The attached AAA platoon assisted in this mission. Twenty four prisoners were captured in this vicinity.

7 April - At 0700 all three Ren platoons were detached and placed under company control.

Ren Co was given the mission to clear the following towns of enemy: BREMENBURG, STEINBERGEN, QUENLISE, ENTRUP, POMBE and GYMUSSEN. Patrols were organized and reconnaissance through these towns commenced. Mission accomplished at 1715 with no casualties. The platoons were again attached to their respective companies.

A Co relieved of all road blocks and assembled vic of BAD-DRIBURG.

B Co occupied road blocks 13, 14 and 15 in the vic of ALBAXEN. THE 2nd platoon fired 4 rds of HE at approximately 40

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enemy on bicycles. Casualties were observed. The 1st platoon destroyed one Mark IV tank located near HOLZMINDEEN with four rds of APC. Fifteen rds of HE were also expended on house which appeared to be enemy CP. Approximately 50 enemy were observed in this vicinity.

The Bn CO received orders from the CG 83rd Div to clear town of OVELHAUSEN. This town was situated on the right flank of the Div and had been by-passed by the infantry because a considerable amount of resistance had been received on the initial attack.

The Bn CO organized three small task force each consisting of a TD platoon and a Ren platoon. These task force were to approach the town on main roads from the North, the West and the South. At 1705 the three forces met in the center of town with very little opposition. A total of 29 prisoners were taken. C Co established road blocks with one platoon on the East side of town.

The Ren Co with its remaining platoon patrolled the area South of the Div sector and made contact with 3rd Armored Div, the unit on the right flank of the Div.

One platoon of Inf was attached to the 1st platoon of Co B to assist in maintaining the road block in the vic of ALBAXEN.

At 2200 one platoon of Co C plus two attached AAA platoons were given the mission of protecting and securing the bridge at GROENDE.

8 April - The Bn less Co A, 2nd plat of Co C, 1st Ren plat and two attached AAA platoons moved to an assembly area East of the Weser River to HOLZEN. At 0800 the 2nd platoon of Co C and the two AAA platoons occupied positions in the vic of GROENDE to protect the treadway bridge across the Weser River from ground and air attacks.

Co A moved to HOXTER and took up positions covering the main roads into town. The 1st Ren platoon reconnoitered routes from BOSSENBORN to HOXTER. A small enemy force was contacted by this platoon of which small arms ammunition was expended. One officer and 5 EM were taken prisoner by this platoon. During the march to HOLZEN the Bn was strafed by 12 ME-109. No casualties were received.

9 April - Co A remained in position in the vic of HOXTER.

The 2nd platoon of Co B fired 12 rds of HE into the town of SCHORBURN. The 3rd platoon of Co B fired 22 rds of HE at enemy personnel located on the high ground NE of SCHORBURN. Several casualties were observed. The 3rd platoon occupied direct fire positions in the vicinity of HEINAM.

C Co was attached to 125th Cav Sqrn and received orders to assemble at BOITEN. At 1900 C Co received orders from the 125th Cav Sqrn to guard a captured German ammo dump near GIESEN. The 3rd Ren platoon was detached from C Co and attached to B Co for rations and operations. Their mission was to proceed and occupy the town of HEINADE. At 1500 the town was entered by this platoon with

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no opposition whatsoever. One section saw enemy movement on the SE part of town and opened up fire. Casualties were observed. One man from the 2nd Ron platoon was killed in this action by panzerfaust fire. One marauder platoon from 83rd Inf Div reinforced the 3rd platoon of Co B.

10 April - Bn CP moved to vic WENZEN closed at 1140 and again at 1830 moved to town of GANDERSHEIM closing at 1700. The Bn plus two platoons of the 453 AAA less Co C attached to 330 Inf Regt.

The 2nd Ron platoon was given the mission to hold the town of BRACH. Then at 1800 was attached to B Co.

Co A moved to vic of DANNEHAUSEN. Platoons occupied road blocks to the South and SE.

Co B moved vic DEENSEN. The 1st platoon occupied direct fire positions vic GHEBME. The 2nd and 3rd platoons moved to assembly positions vic GANDERSHEIM.

C Co assembled in the vic of ALCEMISSEN. At request of Div Commander, 10 EM remained as guards on ammo dump.

Orders received from Squadron Commander to move C Co to MÜNSTER.

11 April - The Bn CP moved to SEESSEN closed at 1100 then moved to COSLAR closing at 1540.

The 1st and 2nd platoons of Co A moved to an assembly area vic COSLAR. The 2nd platoon moved to town of DUDENODE and OLDENRODE. These towns had not been cleared. As a result the platoon expended small arms ammunition and captured 46 PW's.

Co B moved from assembly positions at GANDERSHEIM to assembly area vic SEESSEN. The 2nd and 3rd platoons occupied direct fire positions in the vic of LAUFENTHAL. Nine PW's were taken in this area.

At 1700 the Bn less Co C was attached to the 330th Inf Regt.

C Co moved to assembly area vic of TÄNDLBERG and then to HEVENRODE. The 1st and 2nd platoons occupied road blocks to the South and East of this town. A small enemy force attacked these road blocks. Thirty two rds of HE and small arms ammunition were expended. Results of firing, 7 killed, one wounded and 30 taken prisoners.

12 April - First platoon of Co A maintained road block No. 23. The 2nd and 3rd platoons of Co A maintained road blocks 18, 19 and 20.

B Co's CP remained in SEESSEN. The first platoon occupied direct fire positions in the vic of OKER. The 2nd platoon occupied road blocks vic BOCHWEISS, and the 3rd platoon vic WILDERMAN.

The 1st platoon of Co C moved to vic WAGGUM to hold and secure a captured airport. The 3rd platoon moved to LEHRE and established road blocks with troop F. The 2nd platoon received the mission to safeguard allied PW's in a concentration camp vic WAGGUM.

Co C CP moved vic LEHRE.

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13 April - Bn CP moved to vic BAD-HARZBURG.

Bn Rear Echelon located vic GOSLAR captured 36 PW's.

Co A located vic GOSLAR, the three platoons occupied road blocks to the SOUTH of GOSLAR. Thirty PW's were captured by this Co.

Co B moved to vic GOSLAR and established road blocks 19, 20 and 22. Thirty nine PW's were captured by this company.

Rcn Co moved to town of BAD-HARZBURG. First platoon attached to Co A moved from GOSLAR providing security for the 3rd platoon of Co A. Two EM from the 2nd Rcn platoon were injured by Arty fire while on a security mission for A Co.

C Co moved to vic LEHRE. The 3rd platoon received small arms fire from approximately 20 enemy. Four PW's were taken and two enemy killed.

At 1030 a task force was formed which included one section of light tanks and one TD section from the 3rd platoon to round up enemy in the vic of WENDHAUSEN. A small arms fight developed. Forty one PW's were taken.

14 April - The 1st platoon of Co A plus attached Rcn platoon and AAA guns established road blocks on the Eastern approaches of WERNIGERODE. The 2nd platoon of Co A established road blocks South of WERNIGERODE. The 3rd platoon plus attached Rcn and two guns of AAA occupied road blocks at STAPPELBERG and ILSENBERG. Co A CP moved vic ILSENBERG.

Co B captured 89 Germans in the vic of their road blocks South of GOSLAR.

C Co relieved from present assignment by 35th Inf Div.

At 2030 company assembled vic LEHRE. A total of 20 prisoners were taken.

15 April - The 1st Rcn platoon covering the road junction South of ILSENBERG captured a platoon of enemy complete with equipment.

One section of the 3rd platoon of Co A received orders and moved further into woods. Eleven PW's were taken by A Co in this period. Five drivers reported to Bn rear to pick up M-18's.

Co B remained vic GOSLAR. Fifty six PW's taken during this period.

Co C moved to vic COLBITZ in assembly area. Eleven PW's were taken during this period.

16 April - One section of the 1st platoon of Rcn Co reconnoitered a route to a road junction South of WERNIGERODE. During this mission they encountered enemy machine guns and small arms fire. Thirty seven rds of canister and small arms ammunition were expended. One officer and 17 enemy were captured and approximately 11 killed.

One section of the 3rd platoon of A Co and one section of Rcn platoon moved to the previously reconnoitered road junctions. Five PW's taken during period.

Co B remained in same position. Two officers and 19 EM taken prisoner during the period.

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At 1130, C Co received orders to employ 2 platoons as road blocks at KESUALDORNSLEHEN. At 1200 the Co moved to this town and employed their unit as ordered. Twenty PW's taken during this period.

17 April - Ren Co captured 23 enemy during this period.

Co A layed wire for communications with road block 24B. This road block was located about six miles in the woods and as a result radio communication could not be made. Thirty-three PW's taken during period.

B Co remained in same location and captured 11 enemy during period.

C Co remained in same location and captured 17 enemy during period.

18 April - Bn CP moved via WERNIGERODE.

Ren Co CP moved to WERNIGERODE. Its 1st platoon supporting Co A. Second and 3rd platoons supporting Co B. Thirty two PW's taken during period.

A Co was contacted at road block No 24 by elements of the 26 Regt. Sixteen PW's were taken during period. The 2nd platoon received 2 M-18's making a total of four.

B Co moved via BAD-HARZBURG. Ren was made for firing positions. Hill 1142 the highest point in the HAEZ mountains contained a somewhat large force of enemy which caused a considerable amount of trouble to elements in that vicinity. These positions had to include the top of Hill 1142 in its field of fire. Twenty PW's were taken during period.

C Co remained in same location. One platoon was moved SE of BORN to guard enemy signal supply depot.

19 April - The 2nd platoon of Co A changed positions with the 1st platoon of Co A. Due to the fact that the 2nd platoon had M-18's and the area they had to cover was heavily wooded, a change was made so as to place the M-18's in the open where they could have mobility. Four PW's were taken during this period.

B Co moved to via ILSENBERG. The 1st platoon moved to WERNIGERODE. The 3rd platoon placed 2 guns in the pre-selected firing positions to accomplish its mission of firing on Hill No. 1142. Nineteen rds of HE were expended on this point with results unknown. Sixteen prisoners were taken during this period.

C Co remained in same location. Seven PW's were taken during period.

The Pioneer platoon of Ren Co blew a small ammo dump in the vic of WERNIGERODE.

20 April - At 1200 the Bn was relieved from the 83rd Div and ordered to proceed to an assembly area via IMMERODE. Units of the Bn were relieved from outpost positions by elements of the 8th Arm'd Div. The two platoons of the 453 AAA Bn were detached.

The Bn less C Co closed in the vic of IMMERODE at 1445.

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C Co was relieved of attachment to the 125th Cav Sqdrn.,  
reverted to Bn control and arrived in ~~IMMEDIATE~~ at 1500.

A total of 1417 prisoners were captured this month to  
this date.

21 April - Preparations were being made to convert the Bn to a SF  
unit. First echelon maintenance and cleaning of equipment was  
strictly enforced. Reorganization of the personnel of the Bn was  
in progress. Six M-18's were received from Ordnance which were  
second-hand. As a result the Bn maintenance and Co mechanics had  
to pull all the motors for inspection and repair.

22 April - Maintenance and cleaning of equipment in progress.

23 April - Over strength personnel transferred from unit. Excess  
ammo due to conversion turned in to ordnance. All three inch guns  
and excess vehicles turned into ordnance.

24 April - The Bn received a copy of a message from CG Ninth US  
Army to CG XIX Corps directing the Bn to proceed to ~~ROCKENAU~~ by  
motor on the 25 of April and report to 13th Arm'd Div, Third US  
Army.

The Bn CO held a staff and company commander's meeting  
and discussed a movement order including routes of march, order of  
march, march discipline and time intervals.

Bn received 18 M-18's and two M-32's completing the  
major items of equipment.

25 April - The Bn CO, S-1, S-4, Liaison Officer and Co billeting  
parties proceeded to the 13th Arm'd Div. A billeting party from  
the Bn moved out for the assembly area, (over-night camp) via  
ARNSTADT. The Bn passed the IP (GOELAR) at 0800. The Bn arrived  
at assembly area in ARNSTADT at 1845. Five M-18's and one Half-  
track had broken down during the march. The Bn maintenance recov-  
ered these vehicles and proceeded as far as MURHAUSEN. One hun-  
dred and thirty seven miles were travelled this day.

26 April - Billeting party left for PARSBERG and were given assembly  
area via LUPBURG.

The Bn moved from ARNSTADT and passed IP at 0300. The  
Bn closed in new assembly area (LUPBURG) at 2300. One hundred  
and ninety seven miles covered during the day.

27 April - The Bn attached to CCR, 13th Arm'd Div.

From 0100 to 0400 companies refilled their vehicles with  
gas and prepared for future operations. During the day all the per-  
sonnel cleaned up and rested as much as possible.



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28 April - The Bn (-) Near Ech and Pioneer Platoon of Ren Co passed IF at 0245 with the mission to follow CCR and cross the SAUTHE river. Bn closed in its new assembly area via DEHNERWELING at 2200, all vehicles were immediately refilled.

29 April - At 0900 Co A attached to CCA, Co B attached to CCB. One Ren platoon was attached to each company.

The Bn (-) moved with CCR at 1200 to cross the ISAR River. Bn (-) closed in assembly area at RIMBACH on North side of the river.

Co A occupied direct fire positions covering roads leading from MARTINSHAUSE.

Co B moved with CCB and assembled in town of PLATTING.

Ren Co (-) attached to TF GALE with mission of maintaining contact with CCA and CCR.

30 April - The 3rd Ren platoon maintained contact between CCR and CCB. Eighty four PW's taken on first patrol.

Ren Co (-) moved to town of FRIESTING. Company relieved from task force GALE and reverted to Bn control.

Co A moved to an assembly area via FRIESENDORF. First platoon attached to task force SMITH. Their mission was to spearhead CCA to South to seize bridges on ROTT River and move on to seize bridge over ISE River. The remainder of the company was given the mission to protect the trains of CCA.

B Co remained in assembly area via PLATTING awaiting completion of bridge across ISAR River. First platoon attached to task force MALONE. Third platoon attached to task force McRAE.

1 May - Bn (-) moved from assembly area via RIMBACH at 0300 and crossed the ISAR River at PLATTING. Closed in new assembly area via ISAMHUSEN. Bn (-) then moved and assembled via KRONSTORF.

Co A (-) moved with CCA supply train, crossed ISAR River at 0300 then ROTT River at 1800. Co A (-) assembled in vic of PRIENBAUM. The 1st Platoon Leader led his platoon with Task Force SMITH, when he ran upon a small pocket of enemy. The vehicle swerved off the road and overturned, causing serious injury to the officer and driver. The first section of this platoon reached the ISE River just as the enemy blew the bridges.

The 1st Plat Co B, while moving with Task Force MALONE, a part of CCB, destroyed one enemy AA Gun and one 2 1/2 ton truck in the vic of MALGERSDORF. The 2nd platoon moved with CCB trains with the mission of protection and security. The 3rd platoon moved with Task Force McRAE of CCB.

Co Hq and the attached Ren platoon assembled via EGGERFELDEN.

2 May - Bn (-) moved at 1300 from KRONSTORF and closed in EIBERG at 1600. Orders received from CCR, to clear woods just west of EIBERG. A small task force was formed consisting of a section of

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Ren and one platoon of TD's under the command of the Bn SX. This force surrounded the woods while parties entered. A complete Hungarian Division Train surrendered their arms.

Bn S-2 reported to the CO that he had with him a Lt. Gen. of the Hungarian Army who claimed to be the Catholic Bishop and Chief Chaplain of the Hungarian Army. He was instructed to bring the general to the CP where the latter was informed that he would have to confine his movements to the village of EIBERG but that within the confines of said village he would be free to continue his religious activities. This general proved to be Lt. Gen. Stepan Hess.

At 1000 Bn (-) moved to vic of STALLHAM.

C Co was given mission of guarding the western approaches to town of TANN. Third platoon assigned mission of guarding Hungarian and German prisoners.

A Co moved to assembly area vic of SILBACH. First platoon reverted to company control on relief from Task Force SMITH. Road blocks were occupied outside of SILBACH for security.

The 1st and 3rd platoons of Co B moved to assembly areas vic of EISENFELDEN. The 2nd platoon and one section of Ren escorted supply vehicles of GCB.

Co Hqs. remained in EISENFELDEN.

3 May - Bn Hq and Hq Co relieved from assignment to CCR and attached to Div Hq.

C Co plus 3rd Ren platoon remained attached to CCR.

Co A with Ren platoon attached remained in assembly area vic SILBACH.

Co B (-) remained in assembly area vic EISENFELDEN. First and 3rd platoons remained in EISENFELDEN.

4 May - Bn CP moved to EIBERG.

Ren Co (-) moved vicinity EIBERG. Maintenance, care and cleaning of equipment were in progress.

A Co received orders from CCA to place guards on 4 German Hospitals which contained German wounded. Maintenance and cleaning of equipment in progress.

The 1st and 3rd platoons of Co B plus the 1st Ren section were relieved from attachment to Task Force MALONE and McRAE and assembled in vicinity of Co Hq at EISENFELDEN.

C Co relieved as prisoner guard. Maintenance and cleaning of equipment in progress.

ROBERT I. McELISSON,  
MAJOR, FA (TD),  
COMMANDING.