

HEADQUARTERS
811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

7 June 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 May 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

THRU : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1 - 31 May 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:

May 4 5

[Signature]
CLAYTON HUX,
2d Lt, FA (ID),
Adjutant.

388-2

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

From 01 0001 May 45 to 31 2400 May 45

1 - 4 May 1945

The opening of the month found the Battalion continuing its push towards the Nazi's last strong point, namely, the Redoubt Area situated in the Bavarian Alps in Austria. The Battalion continued to work with the 80th Infantry Division and on the first of May were occupying the following positions: Bn CP - MIEBACH (U2811); Hq & Hq Co - REGENSBURG (U2055); Rcn Co - POSTAU (U3715); Co A - HOLL (U5015); Co B - WEISCHSCHOFEN (U4523); Co C - GRIESSENBACH (U3514).

Companies moved southward during this period against very little enemy opposition. Chief obstacles to our advance were terrain features; namely, rivers over which the retreating Germans had blown the existing bridges. During the night of the 1st and the morning of the 2d May 45, letter Companies crossed the ISAR River in their advance with the Infantry Regiments. Rcn Co was attached to the 319th Inf Regt on 1st and 2d May; however, when the 319th Inf Regt was withdrawn on the 3d May 45, Rcn Co was relieved of this attachment and in turn was attached to 317th Inf Regt on 3 May 45. While attached to these two Inf Regts, Rcn Co conducted reconnaissance along the Division's Zone of Advance.

4 - 7 May 1945

The high-light of this period occurred on the night of 4 May and morning of 5 May at which times all units of the Battalion crossed the INN River into Austria. It was evident at this time that the enemy was completely disorganized. As our advance southward into Austria continued, huge numbers of PW's were clogging all military routes in an effort to reach the nearest PW enclosure. By 5 May 1945 units of the Battalion were disposed as follows: Bn CP - VOCKLABRUCK (V4152); Hq & Hq Co - BUCH (Z8474); Rcn Co - STEINBACH (V8 [REDACTED]) 2

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WALDNEUKIRCHEN (V8654); Co B - BRANAU (Z9576); Co C - STEYR (V9760).

7 - 9 May 1945

On 7 May 45 the Battalion, less Rcn and A Cos, ceased offensive action. Rcn and ACos were attached to TF SMITH and 317th Inf Regt, respectively, and continued advance into vicinity SPIT AM PYHRN (V9618) in pursuit of 6th German Army. It was in this vicinity on 7 May 45 that Major General SOETH, CG, 6th German Army, officially surrendered his Army (approximately 60,000 men) to Capt Samuel W. Parsons, CO, Rcn Co, 811th TD Bn, who in turn presented the note of surrenderance to Major General McBRIDE, CO, 80th Inf Div.

9 - 12 May 1945

On 9 May 45 an official proclamation was issued by the Supreme Allied Commander that hostilities had ceased. On this date, Cos B and C were relieved from attachment 318th and 319th Inf Regts and reverted to Battalion control. On 10 May 45 Hq & Hq, B and C Cos moved to a Battalion Assembly Area in LAAKIRCHEN (V5349), Austria. During 11th and 12th May 45 these three companies were relieved of their attachments with TF SMITH and 317th Inf Regt, respectively, and returned to Battalion control in LAAKIRCHEN (V5349).

12 - 20 May 1945

During this period, the entire Battalion was once again assembled together. A training program was followed by all units which placed special emphasis on maintenance of vehicles, physical exercise and athletics together with an orientation program.

20 - 31 May 1945

On 20 May 45 the Battalion Commander was ordered to attach two companies to a Combat Team whose mission was to proceed to vicinity of JUDENBURG, Austria. Accordingly, Cos A and C were attached to 3d and 43d Cavalry Squadrons which comprised a part of the Task Force. These two companies left Bn area in LAAKIRCHEN (V5349) at 20 0600 May 45, and closed into their new area during night of the

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20th May. This Task Force did not reach its previously anticipated destination due to the fact that a British Army was occupying that sector. On orders of CO's of units to which attached, Co A closed into area in vicinity of RADSTADT (A3281) and Co C in vicinity of MAUTERNDORF (A5055). They remained in these positions during the remainder of the month and maintained law and order. At close of period, they were being relieved of this mission and were preparing to return to Battalion control at LAAKIRCHEN, Austria.

The remainder of Battalion (Hq & Hq, Rcn and B Cos), conducted training in Battalion area at LAAKIRCHEN, Austria, during the period. In addition, preparations were being made to conduct schools in conjunction with the Army's I&E Program.

In the eight (8) days prior to the cessation of hostilities, three thousand seven hundred and ten (3,710) PW's were captured and two enemy observation planes were destroyed in flight. In addition, the Battalion accepted the surrenderance of the 6th German Army, which consisted of between 5,000 and 60,000 men.

France B. McConkie
FRANCE B. MCCONKIE,
Captain, FA (TD),
S-3

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SECTION II

S-2 REPORT

From 0001 1 May 45 to 2400 31 May 45

Laps: Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS 4416.
Sheets Number: W6, W7, W8, X7, X8, X9, Y8, Y9.

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 30th Infantry Division, continued on its mission and passed through elements of the 65th Infantry Division, following up the attack of the 13th Armored Division. By the first of May, units of the Battalion had reached the north bank of the ISAR River. The Battalion CP was located at MIRSCHKOFEN, Germany, Sheet Number W6 (U2511).

The enemy initially offered moderate resistance of small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire on the bridgehead south of ISAR River, but resistance greatly decreased as troops advanced to GROSSEVILS River. All bridges over the GROSSEVILS River in the zone had been blown (from FRONTENHAUSEN (U5305) and ALTERSBERG (U6310), except one jeep bridge at STEINBERG (U5608) captured intact).

According to a statement made by an officer PW the enemy planned its main line of resistance along the south bank of the GROSSEVILS River. Units contacted in this area were 36th VGD, 38th SS Div. NIBELUNGEN, together with miscellaneous units including two Landesschuetzen battalions, 814 and 829, both believed to be operating under the control of 36th VGD.

Our Reconnaissance Company reached LANDSHUT on the first of May and there contacted the 14th Armored Division. Two enemy SP guns vicinity (U297035) and eight tanks were reported dug in with infantry security at (U265028), but withdrew before contact was made.

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811th TD An Forward CP moved to (27495) on the 3d May, later on moving up to (29175), vicinity of SEIBACH on the INN River.

4 - 6 May 1945

On 4 May the situation had become fluid and no front lines existed. The only point of contact with the enemy was vicinity SCHWANENSTADT (U4957) and VOCKLABRUCK (V4151) where elements were reported dug in. A Hungarian Division surrendered here and large numbers of enemy troops were observed moving to the south by rail as well as motorized and horse-drawn vehicles. One fanatical group made a defensive stand at TIMELKAM (V375507). The enemy succeeded in knocking out two U. S. tanks and one armored car, killing four and wounding several.

Battalion Forward CP opened in VOCKLABRUCK (V4151) 5 May. Our units had cleared all areas north of ENNS River in the Division zone taking large groups of PW's and encountering little resistance.

7 - 10 May 1945

Reconnaissance Company and Company A, attached to Task Force Smythe, who moved into KIRCHDORF (V7743) were given the mission to proceed south to annihilate an enemy of unknown strength.

At MICHELDORF (V7740) other reconnaissance elements of the Task Force contacted a German Captain who, under a white flag took the Task Force G-2 to his headquarters. Nothing was accomplished and it was believed the Germans would defend.

At 0500 hours, 8 May, elements of Reconnaissance Company heard a heavy explosion to the south. Two platoons and the Pioneer Platoon moved out of MICHELDORF at 0600 hours and found that a roadblock, formed by blowing an embankment, had been made by the enemy one mile south of KLAUS. A dismounted patrol moved across the roadblock where they contacted one hundred enemy who

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

surrendered. These PW's were put to work on the roadblock by the Reconnaissance Pioneer Platoon, removing it in one hour and thirty minutes. The Task Force moved forward to its objective which was a bridge in the vicinity of KNIENAS. Here the advance elements contacted the Burgermeister who surrendered his town and reported that the next village also wished to surrender. The leading Reconnaissance elements moving out to outpost the objective ran into the tail end of a horse-drawn convoy of approximately two companies who promptly surrendered.

Our reconnaissance was then ordered forward and began by-passing the enemy column.

An experimental laboratory for jet-propelled airplane engines was found at KLAUS and an underground radio station vicinity STEERLING (7832), whose personnel had been instructed to turn same over to the first allied troops reaching that position. This was referred to the Task Force CIC detachment.

Enemy was again contacted in the vicinity of KNIENAS (V8030) who surrendered in small groups. A few miles south an enemy motorized column was contacted.

About ten miles northwest of GARSTEN, Austria, an SS Lieutenant representing the commander offered to surrender all German troops in the area. This information was transmitted to General McBride, Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division. The General and the G-2, escorted by Reconnaissance Company, moved out with the SS Lieutenant to LIEZEN to contact the German Commander. Arrangements for the surrender, assembling and disarming of the enemy were made. Reconnaissance Company was then ordered to proceed to SPIEL AM PIRRN (V9217).

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Reconnaissance Company was attached to 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment, on 9 May 1945, and was used as small detachments, in conjunction with the CIC, moving into the outlying territory north of ENNS River. A German General was captured on road between GARSTEN (V9424) and KNIEHANS (V8130).

About fifteen miles south of SPAYER on the ENNS River, the 2d Platoon, and the Pioneer Platoon of Reconnaissance Company were sent to blow a bridge (V0060) to prevent the enemy from retreating across the ENNS. Upon reaching the vicinity of their objective they found the roads to the bridge blocked by German vehicles and personnel. The demolitions were carried past these vehicles for about three miles, on captured horses, and the bridge blown. Enemy PW's stated that SS troops had killed several Wehrmacht troops, but this was unconfirmed.

The two platoons from Reconnaissance Company then returned to SPITAL AM PYHRN (V9618) where they were used to guard gold bullion, property of the Hungarian Government. Large groups of disarmed PW's were assembled and moved from LIEZEN (V8906) to SPITAL AM PYHRN.

Task Force Black including 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, captured an airport about one mile south of KIRCHDORF (V7643) where they were outposting. Three ME 109's, unoperational, one American B-24 with German markings, three Junker 88's, and one German liaison plane were captured. Approximately fifteen German stragglers were taken at the airport.

Unconditional surrender was announced 09000 1 May 1945. Many of the enemy continued to remain on the roads in the Division zone.

10 - 14 May 1945

Commanding Officer, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, ordered screening of all males of Leackirchen, Austria, between the ages of 15 and 60 in the

interest of local security. As a result of this 299 former German soldiers, mostly in civilian clothes, and 9 political arrests were made. Included in this group of political arrests was the Nazi Superintendent of STEYERWALD Labor Camp.

14 - 31 May 1945

The 6th German Army completed its assembly in the area vicinity MOOSBACH (V0370) except for stragglers. Strength as of 162400B was 3,890 officers and 94,295 NCO's and EM.

Companies A and C were attached to 3d U. S. Cavalry Group on 20 May 1945 and moved to the valley between RADSTADT (A3281), Austria and MAUTERNDORF, Austria. Here they remained for the remainder of the month of May where they contacted elements of the British Eighth Army.

Enemy Equipment Destroyed
and
Personnel Captured

One (1) enemy airplane was destroyed by Company C, and one (1) by Reconnaissance Company. A total of 3,710 PW's were taken by 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and approximately one hundred killed or wounded from 1 to 9 May 1945, inclusive.

Samuel W. Parsons
SAMUEL W. PARSONS,
Captain, FA (M),
S-2.

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SECTION III

S-4 REPORT

1 - 30 May 1945

1. The requirements of this organization were generally good for all classes of supply.

Class I

Modified "B" ration was available for the first half of the month. The latter two weeks consisted of "10 in 1" and "B" rations approximately every other day.

Class II

Fair; this unit needs clothing and has only been able to obtain one-third of that requisitioned, and part of that was Class "B".

Class III

Excellent, even though gas and lubricants requirements were very high.

Class IV

Good.

Class V

Good.

2. The serious handicap of the almost non-existent ordnance support, especially with armored vehicles. The supporting units have been, or are now 65 miles in rear of our rear echelon. As a result our maintenance is continuously falling behind.

3. Road conditions have been good.

[REDACTED]

4. Vehicular Losses:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun M18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle, Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton 4x4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/o W/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

5. Vehicular Replacements:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun M18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrier, Cargo, M29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton 4x4, w/o W/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

6. Ammunition Expended:

Cal .30 Carbine	-	3,900
Cal .30 Rifle Ball	-	240
Cal .30 MG	-	12,500
Cal .45 Ball	-	100
Cal .50 MG	-	4,620
37mm APC	-	91

Howard P. Clarke, Jr.
 HOWARD P. CLARKE, JR.,
 Captain, FA (TD),
 S-4.

S-1 REPORT

SECTION IV

1 - 31 May 1945

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to
and including 31 May 1945 for the period
1 - 31 May 1945)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOH</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 May 45			1	1		2
2 May 45			1			1
* * *						
5 May 45			2			2
* * *						

TABLE NUMBER 2.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>
4 May 45	1
6 May 45	2
8 May 45	16
11 May 45	1
12 May 45	1
13 May 45	1
14 May 45	2
15 May 45	6
17 May 45	1
20 May 45	1
26 May 45	9
29 May 45	1
31 May 45	2

Total 44

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TABLE NUMBER 3.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 May 45 to 31 May 45, incl.

No.

— Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
— Distinguished Service Cross
2 Silver Stars (Posthumously)
3 Silver Stars
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
2 Bronze Stars (Posthumously)
14 Bronze Stars
2 Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
— Air Medal
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
— Soldier's Medal.
6 Purple Heart Awards
— (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
— (2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.


CLEM F. HUX,
2d Lt, FA (TD),
Adjutant.