

H ADQUARTERS 893D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U.S. ARMY

2 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action against the Enemy, Reports
After/After Action Reports.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.
(Through Channels).

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AFTER ACTION REPORT

1. The 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion was operational from 1 April to 30 April inclusive. The Battalion was assigned to the First U.S. Army during the entire month. From 1 April to 2 April inclusive, the Battalion was attached to the VII U.S. Corps. From 3 April to 19 April inclusive the battalion was attached to the XVIII U.S. Corps (Airborne). During the entire month the 893d T.D. Battalion was further attached to the 78th Inf Division.

As the month opened, Co A was attached to the 309th Inf Regt., Co B attached to the 310th Inf Regt and Co C attached to the 311th Inf Regt. These attachments remained in effect from 1 April to 17 April inclusive. From 20 April to 30 April inclusive Co A and C were again attached to the 309th and 311th Inf Regts respectively. Co B was again attached to the 310th Inf Regt from 23 April to 30 April inclusive. The Pioneer Platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to the 303rd Engineer (C) Bn. from 7 April to 17 April inclusive. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reconnaissance platoons were attached to Co's A, B, and C respectively from 1 April to 17 April inclusive.

2. a. Company B had one platoon in indirect fire action during the month.

- b. Total number of concentrations fired was 44.
- c. Total number of rounds fired was 284 HE.
- d. Type of missions fired:

Registrations - 4 concentrations
Harrassing fire - 8 concentrations
Counterbattery fire - 32 concentrations

e. Results of indirect fire: All firing unobserved.

3. The first of April found Co's A, B, and C in defensive position on the south of the Seig River line assisting the 78th Inf Division in holding that line as the remainder of the VII U.S. Corps

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attacked north east to meet the Ninth U.S. Army and close the Ruhr pocket.

On 6 April the 78th Division and attached units attacked northward across the Seig River under the XVIII Airborne U.S. Corps towards objectives in Essen. The 8th Inf Division attacked on the right flank and the 97th Inf Division attacked on the left flank. Resistance proved moderate and the attack progressed rapidly. Few mines were encountered. The main obstacles, besides the lightly manned strongpoints, were the abatis and blown out bridges which the enemy had left on the main roads to delay our advance. As soon as the Division was across in force, the attack went along quite rapidly. Enemy resistance in the Ruhr pocket collapsed and the only defense met was from small groups organized around key terrain features. All troops of the XVIII Corps pushed towards the Ruhr River and on 15 April the 8th Division linked up with the 9th U.S. Army. Co's A, B, and C moved into Elberfeld and Sumpertal on 16 April with the leading elements of Infantry riding on the Tanks and Tank Destroyers. The towns were cleared against light resistance and the Division halted as the 8th Inf Division attacked westward across our front. A record number of prisoners were taken during this attack through the pocket.

On 20 April the Battalion occupied areas in Rennerod, Frohnhausen, Frankenberg and Mandern within the 78th Division sector and were given missions of patrolling and protecting Army supply routes and ammunition dumps.

During the month the following vehicles were lost or damaged due to enemy action.

- 2 - M-10 Tank Destroyers (burned as a result of enemy direct fire)
- 1 - M-20 Armored Car (burned as a result of strafing by unidentified P-47)

The following are casualties among our personnel for the month:

- 10 - Lightly wounded in action
- 2 - Seriously injured in action
- 2 - Seriously wounded in action
- 3 - Missing in action
- 2 - Killed in action

During the entire month, a total of 678 rounds of HE, 84 rounds of APC and 36 rounds of HVAP were fired in direct fire. The results of the fire are as follows:

- 1590 - Prisoners captured
- 418 - Enemy killed
- 82 - Enemy strongpoints neutralized
- 26 - General purpose vehicles destroyed
- 1 - Mk VI tank captured

- 4 - Mk V tanks destroyed
- 5 - Mk IV tanks destroyed
- 1 - Mk III tank destroyed
- 9 - SP guns destroyed
- 2 - SP guns captured
- 2 - Jagdpanthers (Tank Destroyers) knocked out
- 2 - 380 MM SP guns (Rocket) destroyed
- 11 - AT guns (towed) destroyed
- 1 - Armored car destroyed
- 5 - Half tracks (personnel carriers) destroyed
- 10 - AA guns destroyed
- 15 - Field artillery pieces destroyed
- 4 - Motorcycles destroyed

For the Battalion Commander:

Sidney C. Cole

SIDNEY C. COLE
 Capt., 893d T.D. Bn.,
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OFFICIAL:

William E. Nash

WILLIAM E. NASH,
 Maj., 893d T.D. Bn.,
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