

HEADQUARTERS 820<sup>TH</sup> TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
A.P.O. 339 U.S. ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT  
19 April 1945 to 30 April 1945  
(Inclusive)

**19 April -23 April 1945**

Battalion was performing mission of occupation in area around Duisburg, Germany. Battalion C.P. and Reconnaissance Company was located in Wedau (K341109). "A" Company in Duisburg, "B" Company in Am Grossen Graben (K304088). "C" Company at Grossenbaum (K339082), and rear echelon in Solingen(F5485). On 19 April Battalion received orders to move with 97<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to vic Hof, Germany. An advance party under command of Battalion Executive Officer left for Hof, 20 April at 0700. Battalion left by motor convoy 21 April and assembled vic Solingen, Germany (F5485). Battalion left Solingen 0500, 22 April, and bivouacked for the night in Meinningen, Germany. Left Meinningen at 1000, 23 April, and arrived Hof approximately 1800, 23 April, where advance party met convoy and guided the companies to their respective areas. Battalion C.P., Reconnaissance Company, "A" Company, and "B" Company, were directed to Wunsiedel (P0568) and "C" Company to Rehau (PO62914). The rear echelon remained in Hof.

Battalion was relieved from assignment to First United States Army and was assigned to Third United States Army and attached to 97<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. "A" Company was attached to 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry, "B" Company to the 386<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and "C" Company to the 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. Reconnaissance Company was in Battalion reserve. Battalion arrived at new area with 27 M-18 Tank Destroyers operational. Six needed repairs due to mechanical failures developed on the move. Three had been lost to enemy action in the Ruhr pocket and had not been replaced.

**24 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company

No change for C.P., Pioneer platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons.

At 2300 1<sup>st</sup> platoon was attached to "B" Company and left to join "B" Company. On arrival, 1<sup>st</sup> section was assigned to work with 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, "B" Company, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> section with the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, "B" Company

"A" Company moved from Wunsiedel to Mitterteich (P220595) at 1400. Started to make reconnaissance NE of Hunsbach (P285685) for positions to support attack on Eger (P3173). Reconnaissance unable to proceed north of Waldsassen (P2766) due to enemy rocket, mortar, SA and artillery fire. Moved to Kondrau (P260645) at 2100 hours.

"B" Company.

C.P. no change.

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **24 April 1945 (Cont'd)**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons moved at 1700 to their respective battalions of 386<sup>th</sup> Infantry. 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon remained at Wunsiedel in reserve.

C" Company.

C.P. and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons remained at Rehau.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon joined 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry at Asch (P173898) at 1630 moving into a readiness position.

### **25 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P., Pioneer and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon no change.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon. 1<sup>st</sup> section with 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. "B" Company and "E" Company 386<sup>th</sup> Infantry proceeded at 0700, advanced through Hohenberg, Schiradin, Rathsam, Markhausen, Kammerteich, Kammedorf, Reisig, and Schlada, arriving at Schlada 2130 hours. 2<sup>nd</sup> section assisted in the capture of Hirchfeld at 1500. At 1600 captured 9PW's and at 1630 made a route reconnaissance to Haslau. At 1630, 1<sup>st</sup> section, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, left for attachment to "A" Company.

"A" Company no change.

Left Kondrau for Waldsassen (P2766) at 0835. Foot patrols were sent out to find route to Wies by-passing Hundsbach (P287685) and also to find gun positions to fire on town of Hundsbach. Company moved to Wies (P294701) at 2200 arriving at 2330. One destroyer M-18 was lost as column started to move due to fire in motor.

"B" Company.

C.P. and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon left Wunsiedel at 0900 and closed in Arzberg (P1871) at 1015. 2nd platoon met heavy resistance vic Lebstein (F2179) and fired 88 rounds 76MM HE to overcome the resistance. 1<sup>st</sup> section moved into Frnat Lazne (P3279) and 2<sup>nd</sup> section moved into Hazlov (P2483) where 100 PW's were taken. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon at Thiersheim (P140736) had no action.

"C" Company less 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon moved to Tirschenreuth (P307530) arriving at 1915. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon went into direct fire positions vic Mitterteich (P230595). 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon remained in Asch (P173898).

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **26 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company, C.P. no change.

Pioneer platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon no change

1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted route reconnaissance to outskirts of Eger (P3174).

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. 1<sup>st</sup> section did route reconnaissance in 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry sector.

2<sup>nd</sup> section reconnoitered area east of Wunsiedel for signs of reported guerilla warfare but found none.

“A” Company.

C.P. moved to Sv Kritz (P305710) at 2230 with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Remainder of company remained at Wies.

“B” Company.

No change in location of units. Quiet in all sectors of company.

“C” Company.

C.P. no change.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon moved to Lieberstein (P302471) at 1330 as mobile reserve for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon no change.

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon moved from Mitterteich to Zirkenreuth (P275607) and selected gun positions.

### **27 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. no change. Rear echelon moved from Hof to Wunsiedel.

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P. and Pioneer platoon no change

1<sup>st</sup> platoon. 1<sup>st</sup> section at 1530 proceeded to Franzenbod thence to Ob Lohma and to Rofsenroth. Two Destroyers of “B” Company and one One-quarter ton truck of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance section were left at Rofsenroth as right flank guard for “E” Company, 386<sup>th</sup> Infantry. A similar block was set up at Rommersreath as left flank guard for “E” Company. 2<sup>nd</sup> section reconnoitered route to Asch.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon left Company C.P. at 1000 and was attached to “C” Company. Spent afternoon in route and area reconnaissance in “C” Company area.

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. 2<sup>nd</sup> section was attached to “A” Company and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> section already attached at Hundsbach. Platoon moved to vic Eger and established two road blocks for “A” Company.

“A” Company

An enemy force of about 400 attacked Sv Kritz at 0330 and was repulsed without loss. Company at Wies received rocket fire intermittently all night of 26-27 April. 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **27 April 1945 (cont'd)**

platoon was attached to Company "F", 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry and moved from Wies at 1000 to Hundsbach to protect MSR. Received SA fire at 1330. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons with one platoon, Company "K", 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry moved from Wies to Eger to assist in taking the town and to cover "K" Company platoon which had the mission of investigating Cheb airport. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon fired 11 rounds 76MM HE knocking out road blocks and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon fired 500 rounds .50 Caliber covering this section. Mission called off by Regimental C.O. at dark. Platoons then covered approaches to Eger against possible mechanized attack.

"B" Company.

C.P. and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon left Arzberg 0800 and arrived Selb (P140840 at 0900.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons no change.

"C" Company.

C.P., 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons no change.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon moved from Asch and arrived in Tirschenreuth 1150 remaining with Company C.P. balance of day.

### **28 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company

C.P. and Pioneer platoon no change.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon moved to Selb as advance security for 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon of "B" Company.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon made route and area reconnaissance of 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry sector.

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon reconnoitered route from Eger to Eslarn (P455201).

"A" Company.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon plus one .50 Caliber MG from 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon actively supported attack on Cheb airport. Fire 60 rounds 76MM HE, 30 rounds 76MM APC, and 5000 rounds .50 caliber covering left flank of attacking force. TD's neutralized enemy strong points, drove snipers from windows, destroyed O.P.'s and covered Infantry platoons which screened towns of St. Jodoc and Unt Schon. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon protected "L" Company of 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry in its occupation of Cheb airport during the night. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon covered approaches to Eger against mechanized attack.

"B" Company.

C.P. and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon no change. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons joined C.P. and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon at Selb.

"C" Company.

C.P., 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons no change

1<sup>st</sup> platoon fired 45 rounds 76MM HE direct fire into houses and enemy O.P.'s. Moved to indirect fire positions vic (P292492) and fired 21 rounds unobserved fire

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **28 April 1945 (Cont'd)**

supporting 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry.

### **29 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. moved from Wunsiedel at 0830 and arrived at Wieden (P20129) at 1130.

Rear echelon moved to Wieden in the afternoon.

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P. and Pioneer platoon moved to Wieden with Battalion C.P.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon moved from Selb with "B" Company, the first section going to Hostka (P5133) and 2<sup>nd</sup> section to north Lomilstal.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted route and area reconnaissance in 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry sector.

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon marked route for "A" Company from Eger to Eslarn.

"A" Company.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon fired 14 rounds 76MM HE against enemy strong points vic Cheb.

Platoon sergeant of 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon captured 8 prisoners who ambushed him while on route reconnaissance to Cheb airport. Company assembled at Waldsassen and moved at 1422, the Company C.P., 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons going to Moosbach (P372217) 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance platoon to Eslarn (P452200). Group at Eslarn was first regimental reserve and group at Moosbach was second regimental reserve.

"B" Company.

Entire company moved to Vohenstraus (P324240).

1<sup>st</sup> platoon remained in reserve with C.P. 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon moved to (P415335), 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon to (P476304). No action against the enemy

"C" Company.

C.P. and 2nd platoon no change.

1st platoon no change in location, fired 24 rounds indirect on town of Hermomsreuth. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon fired 25 rounds 76MM HE into town of Rosall and 18 rounds HE and 4 rounds APC into town of Wondreb to destroy houses used by enemy soldiers.

### **30 April 1945**

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P. and Pioneer platoon no change.

1<sup>st</sup> platoon security for 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, "B" Company

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon. 1<sup>st</sup> section did route reconnaissance from Zirkeureuth to Rosall.

Mission to take infantry to Rosall and to act as security for Infantry. Encountered road

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **30 April 1945 (Cont'd)**

block at (P3159) where one One-Quarter ton hit a mine, killing the driver and wounding one other man from the platoon, and one man from the Infantry. The vehicle was completely destroyed. 2<sup>nd</sup> section moved with 1<sup>st</sup> platoon of "C" Company to Barnau (P375452).

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon screened wooded area bounded by (P458242), (P488247), (P489285), and (P450276). Worked on this mission with I & R platoons of 387<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

"A" Company.

No change in locations. Spent the day on maintenance of vehicles and weapons.

"B" Company no change.

"C" Company

C.P., 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoons no change.

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon moved to Barnau (F375451)

JOHN F. deV. PATRICK  
Lt. Col., F.A.,  
Commanding.