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1-10 May

HEADQUARTERS
813th TANK DESTROYER BN
A.P.O. 758 U.S. ARMY

From: 0001 hrs 1 May 1945
To : 2400 hrs 10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After Action/ After Action Reports.
TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels)

Foreword: The 813th Tank Destroyer Bn on 1 May 1945 was in the general vicinity of Oberostendorf, Germany, attached to the 101st A/B Div Arty. roster of the Battalion Staff as of that date:

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 25 SEP 46
Adj. Gen. [Signature]
S-4

- Lt. Col. GEORGE McCUTCHEN
- Major HERBERT MEETING, JR.
- 1st Lt. JOSEPH P. FASONE
- Capt. RICHARD I. JOHNSON
- Capt. DONALD E. LARIMORE
- Capt. SUMNER STEVENSON

There was very little combat action during the ten day period of this report. Most of the period saw the battalion aiding the division in its program of military government in its assigned areas. The military government officer for the battalion, Captain RICHARD I. JOHNSON set up a program for each company in the battalion to follow in coordination with the division program. The Kcn Co of the Battalion was attached to the 506th Regt and embarked on many road trips reaching the home of Adolf Hitler in Berchtesgaden, eventually.

1 May 45 On this day the battalion minus Kcn Co remained in the vic of Oberostendorf performing military government duties and taking numerous German soldiers to the Division Pw cage. Kcn Co moved to Peiting coord 387155 with the 327 Regt and took 22 Pws who were brought to the Bn CP and later taken to the Pw cage. The company was notified of its being relieved from the 327th Regt and of its being attached to the 506th Para Regt of the 101st A/B Div.

2 May 45 The battalion was alerted for a move in the direction of Munich and accordingly billeting parties from all the companies left the CP on this day. Kcn Co left Peiting at 0900 hrs moving in convoy with the Regt arriving at an assembly area at 1800 hrs vic of Starnberg coord 6940. The remainder of the battalion finished up what military government work it had on hand and prepared to move on the following day.

3 May 45 The Battalion minus Kcn Co moved a distance of 60-62 miles from Oberostendorf to the towns of Planegg, Krailling, and Grafeling. The Bn CP was set up in the latter town. Kcn Co, meanwhile, had departed from Starnberg at 0800 hrs with the 506th Para Regt and reached Miesbach without opposition.

4 May 45 With the battalion engaged in military government duties in the above mentioned Planegg area, Captain Johnson assigned certain ammo factories, displaced persons camps, and other key points to be guarded by the various companies. Some minor difficulties were encountered as a result of Russian displaced persons and forced laborers pillaging and causing general disturbances but these were quickly and effectively taken under control. The attention of higher headquarters was called to take careful note of the Electro-Technical Institute which was in operation in the Planegg area and military government officers in Munich were also notified.

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HEADQUARTERS
813th TANK DESTROYER BN
A.P.O. 758 U.S. ARMY

13 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Record, 11-31 May 1945 inc.

TO : Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, Att: Division Historian.

1. At the opening of the period, the 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) was still attached to the 101st Airborne Division Artillery, (7th Army). The unit, minus Reconnaissance Company, was engaged in aiding the 101st Airborne in its program of military government in and around Wolfratshausen, Germany. The three firing companies guarded various DP camps and factories in the area, while the Bn CP set up a military government office in Deining. Recon Co was still in Bruch, Austria, attached to the 506th Para Inf Regt with its most important duties being the guarding of an airfield 2 miles west of Bruch and also guarding the residence and family of Reichmarshal Hermann Goering.
2. On 14 May 1945, the Battalion, minus Recon Company departed from Deining and Wolfratshausen and vicinity, and traveled 98 miles, closing in the town of Bad Reichenhall, Z8616 (Nord du Guerre). Some difficulty was encountered on the way down as regards the Battalion's M-36s and several of them were delayed in closing as a result of burned out bogie wheels. Over in Bruch the Recon Company made contact with the Russian forces east of the town.
3. By 15 May 1945, the Battalion was settled in Bad Reichenhall with Recon Co still in Bruch, Austria. The period between 15-31 May saw the battalion engaged in carrying out various guard and policing duties assigned to it by Division Artillery, and one of the firing companies took over the guarding of an area to which all enemy vehicles were being brought for assembly and storage, (Z872180). The same company also undertook to guard the bridge at Z848168. During this period, all men who had not seen the picture, "Two Down and One to Go" were sent to attend a showing at the Division Artillery Theatre. The Battalion Surgeon conducted a physical profile test of all personnel in the unit, and a Dental Survey was also made in the unit. At the end of the period, the Battalion was still attached to Division Artillery and still located in Bad Reichenhall, with Recon Co still in Bruch, Austria.
4. Regarding sabotage or attempted sabotage, there was but one instance which gave rise to suspicion that some effort might have been directed against the battalion of that nature. On the evening of 23 May 1945, S/Sgt Oran M. Christenbury of the Transportation Section, while walking through the Motor Park, noticed a new grenade ring and pin lying on the ground. He checked the trucks in the vicinity and found a thermite grenade placed between the dual wheels of a truck loaded with gas line cans. The effort was a clumsy affair as the truck would probably have thrown the grenade free when it started up. Further investigation failed to reveal the identity of whomever placed the grenade in that position, but the incident was reported to all headquarters for their benefit and action.
5. RED CROSS, SPECIAL SERVICE, and RECREATION ACTIVITIES -- Here in Bad Reichenhall, there is a local Red Cross Club near the Battalion and, in connection with Special Service, it stages various programs for the recreation of the troops. In the basement of the building is a PX from which all personnel may pay for whatever articles they wish to purchase. The Division Artillery Theatre is open to all personnel of this Battalion and movies are shown twice daily. On one night each week, the Red Cross shows a movie and also on a different night holds a dance which is free to all. The excellent Division band puts on some very interesting and entertaining concerts.

After Action Reports (Cont'd)

- 4 April 45
cont'd Ren Co continued its drive in support of the 506th Para Regt. The company departed from Miesbach and reached a point near Stauffen on the road leading southeast towards Berchtesgaden at coord 761169. There they found the bridge blown and defended by about 100 SS and other German troops. The Para Inf deployed and crossed the stream and the 813th TD Ren platoons fanned out on the flanks to the south and the east. Ren's 1st platoon took 8 Germans and 2 vehicles and also directed many other Germans to surrendering points.
- 5 April 45 The Bn continued to perform its military government duties and also put some time on the maintenance of its destroyers and other vehicles as it had received notice that it was to move to a point near Wolfratshausen within the next two days.
- 6 May 45 The next day billeting parties from all companies except Ren Co, were sent to the new area. Most of the day was spent preparing for the move and also in turning over to other authorities the information and the records of duties performed by the battalion in its role of military government in the Planegg, Grafelfing, Krailling areas.
- 7 May 45 On this day the battalion moved, setting up the battalion CP in the town of Deining, Co A in Gelting, Co B in Wolfratshausen, and Co C in Egling. The Bn rear echelon also moved into Wolfratshausen near Co B. Again the Battalion set up a military government in its assigned area. Guards were placed on the displaced persons camp roads and around vital food stores etc. Some difficulties were encountered as a result of Russian forced laborers forcing their way into German homes but in the majority of these cases the matter was brought under control very quickly through prompt action upon the part of the military government agency set up within the battalion. On this historic day the Battalion received official notice of Germany's surrender to the Allies.
- 8 May 45 Ren Co aided in the formal surrender of the German 82nd Corps vic of Lofer. coord. 7399, at approximately 0700 hrs. Lt. Gen. Telsdorf of the Corps turned over his pistol to Capt Wayne I. Hudson, FA, commanding Ren Co, 813th TD Bn. Captain Hudson accepted the formal surrender there. One Major General, one Brig. Gen, and 4000 men and 400 vehicles constituted the total surrendering at Lofer.
- Back in the Battalion area a German plane carrying approximately 25 persons, 1 officer, 20 enlisted men, and 4 German Wacs, made a forced landing near Deining. Immediately the alarm was sounded and there were squads sent from the Bn CP and the companies to apprehend all who tried to escape after the landing. All 25 were apprehended and taken to the Division PW cage.
- 9 May 45 Ren Co was relieved of all duties in the Berchtesgaden area and departed to
10 May 45 for Bruck, Austria at 1330 hrs, and arrived there at 1800 hrs where it remained for the night. The Bn CP and the companies remained at the same places as mentioned above and continued to perform duties of military government in their respective areas. Ren Co remained at Bruck.

Thus the Battalion ended actual combat and settled down to a somewhat different type of endeavor, namely that of occupation and military government. The ten days recorded here, as has been stated previously were almost devoid of combat action for the battalion but most historic and world wide significant terminating in the unconditional surrender of a foe which this battalion has fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, France, Belgium, Alsace, Holland, Germany, and Austria over a period of thirty three months.

For the Battalion Commander:

Herbert M. ...
HERBERT M. ... JR

Major, FA, 813th T.D. Bn. (Exec)

Historical Record - 31 May (Cont'd)

Within the Battalion the Special Service Officer coordinates with the athletic officer and the PX officer for the best interest of the unit personnel. There has been established a Battalion Baseball team, track team and boxing team. Frequent I and M discussions are held throughout the Battalion.

6. Training and Morale: A training program is in effect in the Battalion consisting of close order drill, calisthenics and hikes and is carried out under supervision of the various company commanders and field officers of the Battalion. Morale in the Battalion was good but its increase or decrease seems now to be considerably dependent upon the application of the point demobilization system insofar as it affects the long term members of the unit. At present, approximately 65% of the unit or about 370 members of the battalion have over the required numbers of points to return home. At least 2/3 of these have over 100 points and practically all of them with some few exceptions have been overseas 34 months during which time they have participated in up to six campaigns with a couple of platoons having participated in seven campaigns. Morale in the unit tends to be lower when the older members read in the newspapers of members of other units with considerably less points and overseas service returning to the United States with comparatively little or no consideration being paid to their record and accomplishments over a period of 34 months. There is an opinion that the Battalion by virtue of its status as a separate unit does not receive the same amount of consideration as a battalion which is an organic part of a division especially in regard to returning home under the point system.

7. Displaced Persons, War Criminals, Important Treasures, German Army:
Bn Co aided the 506th Para Inf Regt in maintaining order in the Bruch, Austria area, and also assisted in removing large numbers of Pws to the stockade. No important war criminals were taken nor were any important treasures or documents discovered. The rest of the Battalion performed its routine duties.

8. Fraternization, and its relationship, if any, to Venereal Disease.
During the past two months there has been a sharp increase in the venereal rate in this battalion, all of the indications being that the disease is just as prevalent, if not more so, in areas where the non-fraternization policy exists than in areas where it does not exist. During these two months, there has been a number of passes to the Nancy, Reims, Paris, Riviera areas. Also, there have been hundreds of females in the displaced persons category with whom Allied soldiers were permitted to associate. Men who have contracted the disease have in the most part stated that they became exposed in rest and recreation areas. If this is true, then venereal disease would not have much bearing as regards the non-fraternization policy. It is possible, however, that association with DPS might also be a source of infection, but to establish a causal connection between fraternization and venereal disease has not been possible as yet to determine, due to the many and varied opportunities open to contracting the disease.

For the Battalion Commander:

Donald E. Larimore
DONALD E. LARIMORE
Major, FA, 813th TD Bn
S-3.

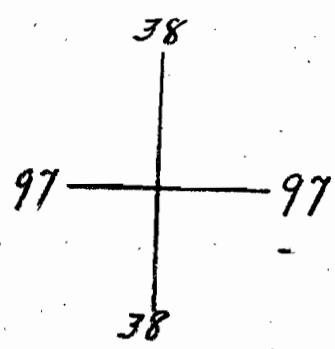
Bn. Disposition as of 280300
to 281200 JUNE 1944

Map: FRANCE 1/25000

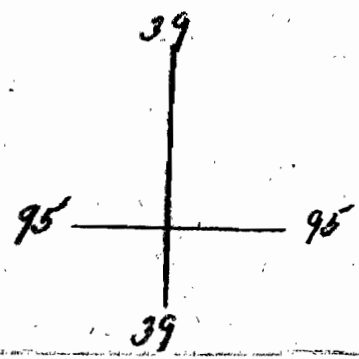
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TD 813

AS OF 280300 - 281200
JUNE - 1944.



The Bn beached at
UTAH - SUGAR REEF
point 270 200 JUNE 44
less Co "C" and S-3 section
Disembarkation began at
27 2055.
Bn closed in transit area "B"
at 27 2230 hrs.
Closed in night biv. area
at 280300 June 44.



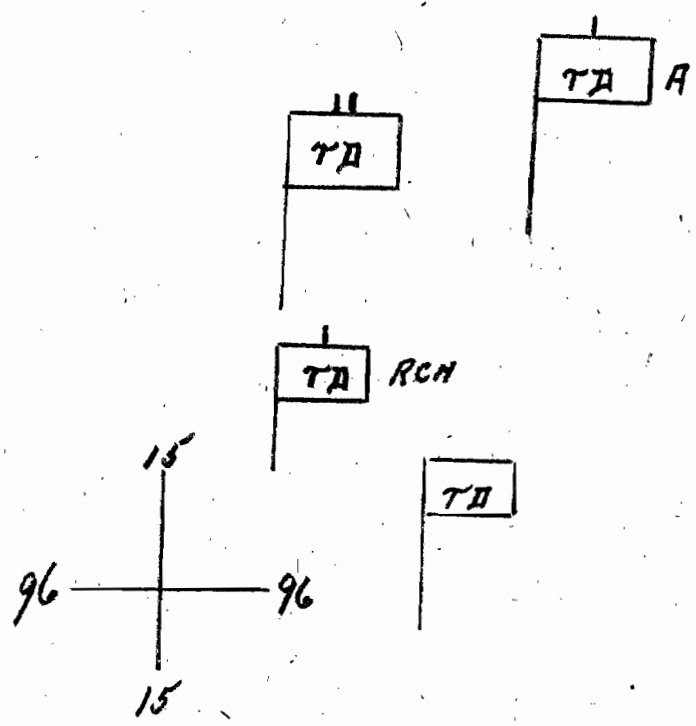
CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Henry J. Smith Capt H. S. D.
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 7 Mar 1946

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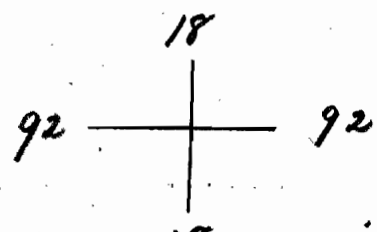
Disposition of Bn
from 281200 - 281925 - JUNE 1944

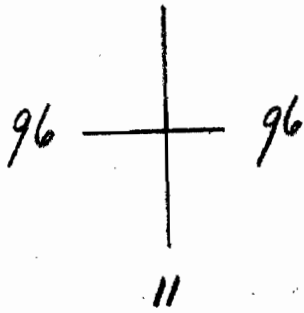
Map: FRANCE, 1/25,000
Sheet 28/18 N.W. - St. Souver



NOTE:

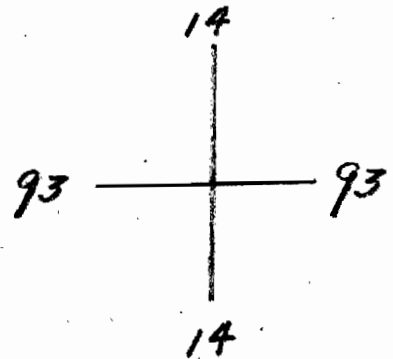
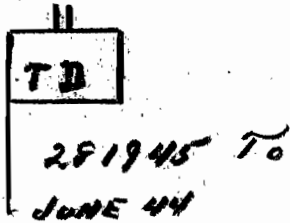
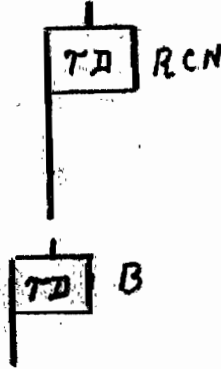
1. Co "C" still in England in marshalling area.
2. Rr Ech of Bn. located at 088923 on Sheet 28/18 N.E. (Barneville)





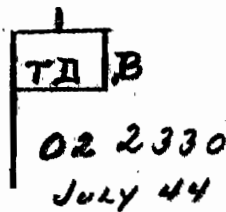
Disposition of Bn.
from 281945 to 30 2400
(to 02 2330)

Map: FRANCE 1/25000
Sheet: 21/18 N.E. St. Mere l'Eglise.



Co "B"
 Two men wounded
 by M.G. fire.

2
 (B)



NOTE:

Co "C" still in
marshalling area in England
as of 30 June 44.

Bn. Rn. Ech at 085923
on sheet 28/18 N.E. (Bornerville)

Rn. Ech in marshalling area same location as Rn. Ech.



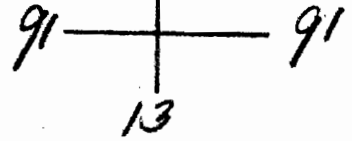
Probable enemy Avenues of Approach



Front Lines

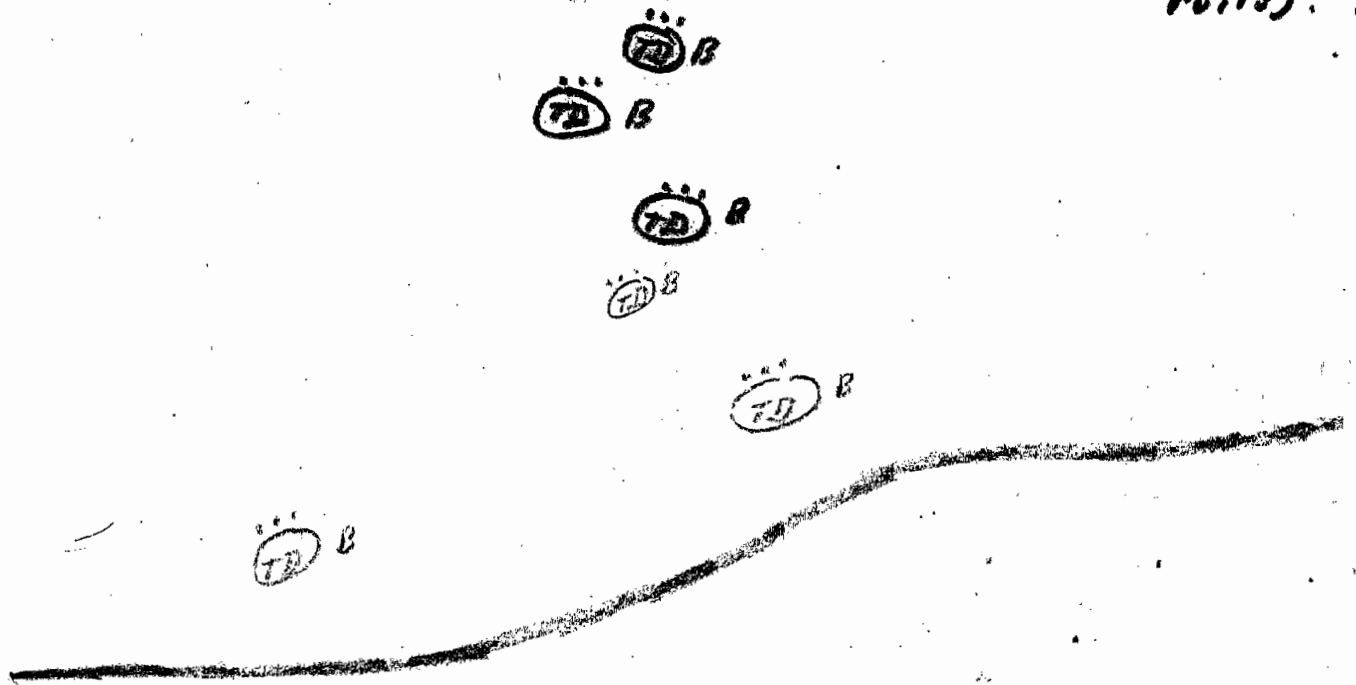
Initial Platoon Positions

Platoon positions in event of Counter Attack.



Map: France 1/25000

Sheets 31/18 NW (St Sauveur)
31/18 SW (La Haye du Puits)



June 1944

AT 30 0800 BN. C.O. went to
313 Inf. CP to coordinate these plans.
813th T.D. Bn. (S.M.) was to be in support
of 3rd Bn. of 313 Inf. Regt. as part of
79th Division mobile reserve.

