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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230 U.S. ARMY

SECRET
By Authority of Comdg. Gen. 9th Inf. Div.
Date _____
Initials _____

3 May 1945.

SECTION - I - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Authority

1. In compliance with Par. 10 (C4), AR 345-105, this Report of Operations of the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion for the month of April 1945 is submitted.

For the Battalion Commander:

Harley N. Miller
 HARLEY N. MILLER,
 Major, 899th TD Bn.,
 S-3.



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 ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG
Per J.E. Pitts, AGRAK
10 Dec 57

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SECTION II - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports

Introduction

1. a. During the period covered by this report the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion commanded by Lt. Colonel MAXWELL A. TINCHEP, was attached to the 9th Infantry Division, commanded by Major General LOUIS A. CRAIG. The 9th Infantry Division, from the beginning of the period to midnight, 4 April, 1945, was attached to VII Corps, commanded by Major General J. LAWTON COLLINS. From 0001B, 5 April to 1200B, 13 April, the 9th Infantry Division was attached to III Corps, commanded by Major General JOHN VAN FLEET. From 1200B, 13 April 1945, to the end of the period the 9th Infantry Division was reattached to VII Corps. The III and VII Corps were in turn assigned to the First United States Army commanded by Lt. General COURTNEY B. HODGES.

b. During this period no units were attached to this organization.

c. During the period the following maps were used by this Battalion: Tactical Maps - 1/25,000, sheets 4237, 8 & 9; 4137, 8 & 9; 4337, 8 & 9. 1/50,000, sheets 97, 98, 99, 127, 128, 129, 157, 158, 159. 1/100,000, sheets Q 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; R 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. Road Maps - 1/300,000, sheets M52 and 1/500,000, sheet 4. Situation Maps - 1/250,000 and 1/1,000,000. Aerial photographs and terrain studies were also utilized.

For the Battalion Commander:

Harley N. Miller
HARLEY N. MILLER,
Major, 899th TD Bn.,
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SECTION III - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Report of Operations - Month of April 1945

Apr. 1, 1945 - The Battalion attached to the 9th Infantry Division. (attached to VII Corps). The Division continued to attack to the north to assist in the neutralization of the Ruhr Pocket. The Battalion gave close support to the Regiments against enemy tanks and assisted the infantry in policing up scattered groups of by-passed enemy infantry.

Bn CP located in Arfeld, Germany (G496685).

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment. Co. CP located vicinity Mallenberg (G623794). The 1st platoon in direct support of the 1st Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity Zuschen (G585860). The 2nd platoon in direct support of the 2nd Bn remained in Regimental reserve vicinity Hasborn (G623838). The 3rd platoon in direct support of the 3rd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Zuschen (G588820). The 3rd platoon lost one destroyer by enemy AT fire.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. Co. CP vicinity Wunderhausen (G546777). The 1st platoon in direct support of the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Bubankirche (G543783). The 2nd platoon in direct support of the 2nd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Dambach (G516790). The 3rd platoon in direct support of the 3rd Bn remained in Division reserve vicinity Henschlar (G441688), protecting the southern flank of the Division.

Co. C - In direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment. Co. CP located vicinity Elsoff (G543695). The 1st platoon in direct support of the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Urbachs-Kopf (G490736). The 2nd platoon in direct support of the 2nd Bn remained in reserve AT positions vicinity Alertshausen (G546732). The 3rd platoon in direct support of the 3rd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Arfeld (G490690) and vicinity (G498688).

Reg. Co. - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reg platoons in direct support of Co's A, B and C respectively. Co CP located vicinity Arfeld (G496685).

Hq. Co. - Located vicinity Hatfeld (G568665).

M-36's Operational - 32 (3 in Battalion Maintenance).

Vehicular Losses - 1 M-36 hit by AT fire - repairable.

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 2, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the North to assist in the reduction of the Ruhr Pocket. The Battalion continued to give close support to the Division.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th ECT. CP located vicinity Zuschen (G576845). The 1st platoon attached to the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Winterberg (G557888). The platoon destroyed one Mk IV assault gun and 5 CP vehicles. The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity G555879 and G581869. The 3rd platoon attached to the 3rd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Zuschen (G575843) and vicinity Neu Astenberg (G523843). 3 PWs captured. Rear areas continued to be characterized by the reduction of small pockets of by-passed enemy.

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Co. B - Attached to the 60th RCT. Co CP located vicinity Wunderthausen. 1st platoon attached to the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Neu Astenberg (G523848). The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Hohelwe (G494829). The 3rd platoon attached to the 3rd Bn occupied reserve AT positions vicinity G625840 and G615842.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th RCT. Platoons moved forward with their respective Bns. Co. CP in Diedenshausen (G535757). 1st platoon in AT positions with the 1st Bn. vicinity G475675, and Girkhausen (G479799). The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Bn. occupied AT positions vicinity G508820. The 3rd platoon attached to the 3rd Bn. occupied AT positions in Berghausen (G430709).

Reg. Co. - Continued SOP reconnaissance missions for the Gun Companies. M-S's were used throughout the period to escort supply vehicles and Division Liaison personnel.

Hq. Co. - No change.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicle Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 Mk IV SP and 5 GP vehicles. 3 PWs.

Ammunition Expended - 1 APC and 12 rds. HE



APR. 3, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the North to liquidate the Ruhr Pocket. Small groups of by-passed enemy continued to harass supply routes. Small pockets of enemy continued to offer stiff resistance but were quickly neutralized. SP fire continued to harass the infantry.

Co. A - No change in attachments. CP in vicinity Tuschon (G577845). The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Winterberg (G558887) and (G557886). The 2nd platoon with the 2nd Bn. occupied AT positions in Winterberg. The 3rd platoon with the 3rd Bn. occupied AT positions in Neu Astenberg (G524851). The 1st platoon captured 2 enemy Jeeps and 17 PWs.

Co. B - No change in attachments. Co. CP located vicinity Kranbuche (G568837). The 1st platoon with the 1st Bn. occupied AT positions vicinity Neu Astenberg (G525856) and Lanneplatz (G522862). The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Westfeld (G525856). The 3rd platoon with the 3rd Bn. remained in reserve positions vicinity Tuschon (G578842).

Co. C - No change in attachments. Co. CP located vicinity Diedenshausen (G536755). The 1st platoon with the 1st Bn. occupied AT positions vicinity Berleburg (G460730) and Oberkirchen (G447849). The 2nd platoon with the 2nd Bn. attacked the town of Oberkirchen. The town was partially occupied by nightfall and the platoon organized it's AT defenses. The enemy counterattacked during darkness after a heavy artillery preparation and succeeded in over-running one section of destroyers. The attack was supported by 4 to 5 tanks or SP guns. The 2nd platoon destroyed one Jagdpanther Mk V before being swarmed over by enemy infantry. One destroyer was lost by bazooka fire and one damaged by AT fire (vehicle operational). Both destroyers were captured by the enemy but were retaken the following morning when our infantry cleared the town. The two destroyer crews fought their way back to friendly lines after killing numerous enemy with pistols and sub-machine guns. 300 to 400 enemy infantry made the attack. The 3rd platoon with the 3rd Bn. occupied AT positions in Berghausen (G430710).

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APR. 3, 1945 - Cont'd

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - 1 M-36 and 1 1/4 ton jeep lost when enemy tank was destroyed and burned.

Casualties - 1 EM WIA and 1 EM MIA

Enemy Material Destroyed - 1 Mk V Jagdpanther and 2 GP vehicles. 17 PWs.
Ammunition Expended - 7 rds APC

APR. 4, 1945 - The Division continued to attack in an effort to destroy the enemy line the Ruhr pocket. The enemy reacted strongly to the advances of the 47th RCT and followed up his unsuccessful counter-attack of the previous night with a strong attack this morning with approximately one Bn of infantry supported by 4-5 tanks. The Bn continued to support the attack.

Co. A - Company attached to the 39th RCT. 1st, 2nd and 3rd platoons attached to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns respectively. All platoons occupied AT positions vicinity Winterberg. 1st platoon vicinity G563914 and G560888, the 2nd platoon vicinity G553887 and G555889, the 3rd platoon vicinity G547884. 2nd and 3rd platoons gave close support to the infantry and engaged numerous targets of opportunity.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. All platoons moved with the Infantry Battalions and by nightfall occupied AT positions as follows: 1st platoon vicinity Neu Astenberg (G524853), 2nd platoon vicinity Westfeld (G475850), and the 3rd platoon vicinity Alt Astenberg (G525877).

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. The sector of the 2nd Bn continued to be the focal point of the enemy's attention and the town of Oberkirchen (G448848) received the bulk of the enemy's artillery fire. The enemy attacked the 2nd Bn early in the morning with tanks and infantry but was forced to retire after heavy losses in infantry and the loss of one Mk IV tank to the gunners of the 2nd platoon. Late in the period the Company less the 2nd platoon moved with the RCT to the vicinity of Kustelberg (G607921) to join TF Birks.

M-36's Operational - 34

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - 1 Mk IV Tank

Ammunition Expended - 32 rds APC 16 rds HE



APR. 5, 1945 - The Division continued to attack over extremely rough and wooded terrain. The enemy fighting a delaying action seemed more than willing to give up when pressed closely. The Battalion continued to give close support to the Infantry.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment. The RCT continued to attack to the NE from Winterberg with terrain offering the chief resistance. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G555935. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Winterberg. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G547883.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. The RCT continued to attack west from Winterberg over very difficult terrain and a very restricted road net, rendering close support impossible. All platoons remained in the same positions.

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Co. C - In direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment (attached to TF Birks). 1st platoon in support of the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Assinghausen (G533022). The 2nd platoon remained in reserve positions vicinity Winterberg. The 3rd platoon in direct support of the 3rd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Niedersfeld (G551964).

Recon Co. - Continued SOP reconnaissance missions in support of each Gun Companies.

M-36's Operational - 34

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - Unknown

Ammunition Expended - 2 rds APC 2 rds HE

Apr. 6, 1945 - The Division front was narrowed during the preceding period and the appearance of the 7th Arm'd Division on our left flank drew considerable enemy armor from our sector and the Division was able to make considerable progress during the period. The Battalion continued to support the attack of the Division.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon in direct support of the 1st Bn moved with the Bn and organized the AT defenses of the town of Siedlinghausen (G513953). The 2nd platoon moved with the 2nd Bn and assisted in the capture of Silbach (G522926). The 3rd platoon in support of the 3rd Bn remained in reserve positions vicinity Brunskappel (G519980), and Winterberg.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. The Company experienced great difficulty in rendering close support due to the restricted road net and rough terrain. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G496895. The 2nd platoon remained in reserve positions vicinity Westfeld (G467862) and G483867. The 3rd platoon supporting the 3rd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity G506916.

Co. C - In direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment, (attached to TF Birks). The 1st platoon in support of the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Olsberg (G524039). The 2nd platoon during the early part of the period moved to assembly area vicinity Brilon (G580110) with the 2nd Battalion. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Olsberg (G508069).

Hq. Co. - Moved to vicinity Winterberg.

Bn CP - Moved to Hildfeld (G579943).

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 7, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the west to clean out the Ruhr Pocket. The Battalion continued to give close support to the Infantry and provide the AT protection to the Division.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions in Elpe (G497979). The 2nd platoon from positions vicinity G504963 destroyed one Mk V Jagdpanther tank and one Mk IV assault gun and one GP vehicle. The platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Altenfeld (G493950). The 3rd platoon

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remained in reserve positions vicinity Brunskappel (G519981). The Jagdpanther was hit twice on the front end at a range of 1500 yds with 90mm APC at a 90 degree angle and both rds bounced. One round through the top set the vehicle afire.

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. Rough terrain and poor road nets continued to hold up the advance of the RCT. The 1st platoon with the 1st Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Rehsiepen (G473889). The platoon destroyed one enemy half-track vehicle at a range of 600 yds. The 2nd platoon remained in Regimental reserve with no change in positions. The 3rd platoon with the 3rd Bn remained in the same positions.

Co. C - In direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity in Helmeringhausen (G513051). The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Gevelinghausen (G489059). The 3rd platoon remained in AT reserve positions in Bigge (G508069).

M-36's Operational - 31

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 Jagdpanther
1 Half-Track

1 M4 IV AG
1 GP Vehicle

Ammunition Expended - 14 rds APC 20 rds RE



Apr. 8, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the west to liquidate the Ruhr Pocket. The Battalion continued to give close support and AT protection to the Regiments. Rough terrain and poor road nets held up operations and restricted gains.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment. The 1st and 2nd platoons were attached to the 1st and 2nd Bns, and the 3rd platoon was held in Regimental reserve. The enemy continued to fight a delaying action from high ground and built up areas. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Heinrichsdorf (G482990) and Elpe (G497978). The 2nd platoon moved with the Infantry in its assault on and capture of Westernbodefeld (G444956) and organized the AT defenses of the town. The 3rd platoon remained in reserve positions in Brunskappel (G519981).

Co. B - The company in direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. 1st and 2nd platoons in direct support of the 1st and 2nd Bns respectively. The 3rd platoon remained in Regimental reserve with the 3rd Bn. Extremely rough terrain and a poor road net continued to hold up operations and limit success. The 1st platoon moved with the 1st Bn in the capture of Osterwald and organized the AT defenses of the town. The 2nd platoon moved with the 2nd Bn in the attack on and capture of Huxel (G419880) and organized the AT defenses of the town. The 3rd platoon in Regimental reserve moved to reserve AT positions vicinity Bodefeld (G461937). The 1st platoon destroyed four GP vehicles vicinity G433917.

Co. C - The company in direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment. The 1st and 3rd platoons attached to the 1st and 3rd Bns respectively and the 2nd platoon in Regimental reserve. The 1st platoon moving with its Bn occupied AT positions vicinity B435046 and B450044.

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The 2nd platoon occupied reserve positions vicinity Heringhausen (B468042). The 3rd platoon moving with the 3rd Bn for an assault on Meschede occupied AT positions at B410062.

M-36's Operational - 34

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - 1 BM WIA

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 4 GP Vehicles

Ammunition Expended - 3 rds APC 15 rds HE

Apr. 9, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the west. The 10th Infantry Regiment of the 5th U.S. Infantry Division, relieved the 47th Infantry Regiment by attacking through them. The 47th reverted to Division reserve and assembled vicinity Siedlinghausen. The 39th and the 60th RCT's continued the attack to the west within zone meeting very little resistance.

Co. A - In direct support of the 39th RCT. No change of assignments within the Company. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Bluggelscheidt (B436017), and Berlar (B450022). The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Bn occupied AT positions vicinity Horinghausen (G412981), and (G421983). The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Hosebelle (B430010).

Co. B - In direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. No change in assignment within the company. The RCT continued to attack to the west, meeting very little resistance. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Dornheim (G420946). The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G378907 and G391928. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity G407937.

Co. C - Company in direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment. During the early part of the period the platoons remained in the same AT positions. The 1st platoon captured 3 GP vehicles and 10 PWs, expending 30 rds Caliber 50. The RCT was relieved by the 10th Regiment of the 5th Infantry Division and assembled in Division reserve. The 1st platoon assembled with the 1st Bn vicinity Elpe (G497977). The 2nd platoon assembled with the 2nd Bn vicinity Brunskappel (G517977), and the 3rd platoon assembled with the 3rd Bn vicinity Siedlinghausen (G514954).

Hon. Co. - The 1st and 2nd platoons remained in direct support of Companies A and B. The 3rd platoon moved to Siedlinghausen with Co C.

M-36's Operational - 35

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 3 GP vehicles captured and 10 PWs.

Ammunition Expended - 30 rds Cal 50 MG.

Apr. 10, 1945 - The Division took all assigned objectives within zone and was pinched out by the 7th Arm'd Division and the 5th Infantry Division. The Division spent the day in a security check and screening of all males capable of bearing arms within sector.

Co. A - Released from direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment at 0800 hours and assembled vicinity Westernbodefled (G440957). 1st echelon maintenance and a clothing and equipment check was continued throughout the day.

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Co. B - In direct support of the 60th Infantry Regiment. No contact with the enemy was made during the period. Road blocks were manned in rear of the 7th Arm'd Division. 1st platoon occupied AF positions vicinity G330995 and G342992. The 2nd platoon occupied AF positions vicinity G356960 and G348952. The 3rd platoon occupied AF positions vicinity G360990 and G352964. Maintenance was conducted throughout the day.

Co. C - No change in positions. 1st echelon maintenance conducted throughout the day.

Ron. Co. - 1st Ron platoon assembled vicinity Co CP for maintenance (G579945).

M-36's Operational - 35

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 11, 1945 - The Division, less the 47th RCT, remained in assembly area resting and refitting in preparation for future operations. The 47th RCT was attached to VII Corp and moved to the vicinity Nordhausen (D125270).

Co. A - Remained in assembly area vicinity Westernbodefeld. 1st echelon maintenance conducted throughout the day.

Co B - Company released from road blocks and assembled vicinity Co CP (G381962). 1st echelon maintenance and care and cleaning of equipment conducted throughout the day.

Co. C - Company attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment (attached to VII Corps). Company moved under company control to vicinity Nordhausen, 170 miles, and rejoined the RCT for operations in the Harz Mountains area. Movement started at 1330 hours.

Ron. Co. - The 3rd platoon moved with Co C to the Nordhausen area.

M-36's Operational - 35

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 12, 1945 - The Division less the 47th RCT, remained in assembly area and made preparations for future operations with the VII Corps in the Harz Mountains area.

Co's. - A, B, and Ron. - No change.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th RCT. Company continued movement to the Nordhausen area. Movement completed approximately 0730 hours. The 1st and 2nd platoons were attached to the 1st and 2nd Bns respectively. The Company assembled in the Uftrungen area (D250270) for maintenance and reservicing.

M-36's Operational - 32

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

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Apr. 13, 1945 - The Division, less the 47th RCT and the 60th RCT, moved from the Winterberg - Olsberg area to the Nordhausen area and there became attached to VII Corps at 1200 hours. The Battalion, less Companies A, B and C, moved with the Division CP at 0700 hours via Olsberg - Altenburen - Brilon - Hoppecke - Beringhausen - NE to Rimbeck - SE to Gessendorf - NE to Hohenwepel - Borgentreich - Beverungen - Across River to Lauenforde - NE to Amelith - Schonhagen - Uslar - Bollensen - Ellierod - Hardegeen - SE to RJ at G523310 - E to Waake - Hergoren - SE to Seulingen - Euderstadt - E to Brehme - Bleich - Brode - NE to RJ at G998212 - Rustleben - NE to Nordhausen - to Uftrungen. Approximately a distance of 170 miles. The Battalion closed in area at 1800 hours.

Co. A - Moved with and attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment over the above route. Company moved under company control. Average rate of march - 15 miles per hour. Company left old area at 1130 hours.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. Remained in assembly area and completed 1st echelon maintenance.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. The company supported the attack of the RCT north from Uftrungen to capture Dietersdorf (D298309), Schwenda (D341280) and Hayn (D355319). Co. CP located vicinity D300307. 1st platoon occupied AF positions vicinity D275345, D271372 and D332336. The 2nd platoon occupied AF positions vicinity D295405. The 3rd platoon remained in the vicinity of the Co. CP for maintenance.

Ren. Co - 1st platoon and pioneer platoon moved with the Battalion CP. 2nd platoon remained with Co. B. The 3rd platoon performed SOP reconnaissance missions in direct support of Company C.

Hq. Co - Moved with the Division to the area D278222 (Berga).

M-36's Operational - 32

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None



Apr. 14, 1945 - The Division, less the 60th RCT, resumed the attack in the Harz Mountains region. The north boundary of the Division ran due east on a line Gunterberge - Harggerode. The southern boundary ran east, generally along the 27 grid line. The 47th Infantry Regiment was to attack due north to Harggerode then turn due east. The 39th Infantry Regiment was to attack due east from the Schwenda area. The Battalion supported the attack of the Division and protected it from enemy armored attack.

Co. A - Two platoons in direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment and one platoon in Division reserve within the 39th Infantry sector. The company closed in the Rottleberode (D230290) area at 0100 hours after a forced march of approximately 170 miles. Two M-36's were operational at the completion of the march. The day was spent in maintenance. One section of the 1st platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion and assisted the Battalion in the capture of Stolberg (D232355) and organized the AF defenses of the town, and reverted to reserve status. The 2nd platoon upon completion of maintenance sent one section to Dankerode (D358380) and organized the AF defenses of the town. The section was attached to the 2nd Battalion.

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The 3rd platoon upon completion of maintenance sent one section to Rotha (D357325) attached to the 3rd Battalion, and organized the AF defenses of the town. 7 M-36's operational at the end of the period.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. Company left old area at 0500 hours and marched with the 60th Infantry Regiment to the Breitenstein (D220400) area. The company CP closed in at Breitenstein at 2400 hours. The company still en-route at the close of the period. Same route as taken by the rest of the Division was used.

Co. C - Two platoons in direct support of the 47th Infantry Regiment and one platoon in Division reserve in the 47th Infantry sector. The 1st platoon attached to the 1st Bn moved with the Bn and gave close support in the attack on and capture of Strassberg (D2940). One section occupied a road block vicinity D301300 and the 2nd section organized the AF defenses of the town of Strassberg. The 2nd platoon, attached to the 2nd Bn, gave close support to the Bn in its attack on and capture of Breitenstein. The first section occupied a road block vicinity D217428, and the 2nd section occupied a road block vicinity Guntersberge (D240430). The 3rd platoon occupied reserve positions vicinity Hayn (D318355). The 2nd platoon destroyed one Mk V tank vicinity D220428.

Ren. Co - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Ren platoons in direct support of Co's A, B, and C respectively. Platoons performed SOP reconnaissance missions for the respective Gun Companies. The 3rd platoon upon orders of the CO, 47th Infantry Regiment placed one M-8 in support of the Regimental I and R platoons. The M-8 complete with crew was captured in the town of Strassberg while on a reconnaissance mission of the Regiment.

M-36's Operational - 30

Vehicular Losses - 1 M-8 (captured)
Casualties - 4 EM MIA
Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 Mk V Tank
Ammunition Expended - 2 rds APC



Apr. 15, 1945 - The Division continued the attack to the East through the lower end of the Harz Mountains. The Battalion gave close support and protected the Div against armored attack. Enemy activity was characterized by intense 20mm flak and occasional SP fire. The principle resistance was from Hitler Jugend, SS troops and various assortments of Kampf Gruppen. The 39th RCT and the 47th RCT attacked to the East and the 60th RCT attacked to the North-West toward Hasselfelde (D1548).

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. Platoons in turn attached to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions respectively. The 1st platoon moved with the 1st Battalion and occupied AF positions vicinity Dankerode (D356382). The 2nd platoon with the 2nd Battalion occupied AF positions vicinity Braunschwanke (D431392). The 3rd platoon giving close support to the 3rd Battalion moved with the Battalion to vicinity of Gerbstedt (D695444) and organized the AF defenses of the town.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. Platoons in turn attached to the Infantry Battalions. The 1st platoon operating with the 1st Battalion remained in reserve positions vicinity Breitenstein (D218428). The 2nd platoon operating with the 2nd Battalion occupied reserve AF positions vicinity Breitenstein (D223406). The 3rd platoon operating with the 3rd Battalion moved with the Battalion in the attack on Stiege (D1745). The platoon occupied AF positions vicinity D204435. The company captured two PWs.

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Apr. 15, 1945 - Cont'd

Co. C - The 1st and 2nd platoons attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. Platoons in turn attached to the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively. The 3rd platoon was attached to Task Force Fincher at 0700 hours. The 1st platoon working with the 1st Battalion occupied AF positions vicinity Silberhutte (D323420). The 2nd platoon operating with the 2nd Battalion moved with the Battalion in the attack on and capture of Harzgerode (D3543) and organized the AF defenses of the town. The 3rd platoon attached to TFFincher remained in reserve positions in Strassberg (D2940).

Ron. Co - The company attached to TFFincher at 0700 hours. The company assembled in Strassberg and upon the clearance of the area from Siptenfelde to Harzgerode occupied road blocks and outposts protecting the north flank and rear of the Division. The 1st Ron platoon occupied road blocks vicinity D310440, D315446, and D334438. The 2nd platoon occupied road blocks in Harzgerode. The 3rd platoon remained in Strassberg. The pioneer platoon assisted the platoons in the construction of road blocks. One platoon of Mortars and one platoon of Assault Guns from the 746th Tk Bn were attached to the company and were in turn used to reinforce the road blocks established. 5 PWs captured.

Hq. Co - Moved to vicinity Hayn (D312357).

Bn. CP - Moved to vicinity Hayn (D317353).

M-36's Operational - 28

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None (7 PWs captured)

Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 16, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to the East within zone. TFFincher continued to hold the rear of the Division and the North flank. Enemy resistance appeared to be spotty and disorganized. Rapid advances were made throughout the Division sector. The Battalion continued to support the Division.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. No change of attachments within the Company. The 1st platoon occupied AF positions vicinity D625477. The 2nd platoon occupied AF positions vicinity D568443. The 3rd platoon occupied AF positions vicinity D695489.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. No change of assignments within company. The company gave close support to the Regiment in its attack on Hasselfelde, and provided the heavy AF protection for the Regiment. The 1st platoon remained in Regimental reserve vicinity D216428. The 2nd platoon, with the 2nd Battalion vicinity Harzgerode, occupied AF positions at D356439, D359436, and at D361433. The 3rd platoon moved with the 3rd Battalion in its attack on Hasselfelde, and occupied AF positions at D153482 and D159485.

Co. C - Less the 3rd platoon, attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. 1st platoon attached to the 1st Battalion occupied AF positions vicinity D545422 and D549432. The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion occupied AF positions vicinity D465414. The 3rd platoon attached to TFF, remained initially in reserve positions in Strassberg. At 1900 hours moved with the Task Force to vicinity Aisleben (D7252).

Ron. Co - Attached to TFFincher. 1st platoon remained on same road blocks. The 2nd platoon occupied road blocks at D200398. The 3rd platoon reinforced the 1st platoon road blocks. The Pioneer platoon continued to assist the Ron platoons in the construction of road blocks.

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(11) - Report of Operations - Month of April 1945.**SECRET**Apr. 16, 1945 - Cont'd

The Company released from attachment to TFI and attached to TF Carter at 1600 hours. Company captured 93 Pws.

M-36's Operational - 29

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - Unknown - 93 Pws captured.

Ammunitions Expended - None



Apr. 17, 1945 - The Division continued to attack in an effort to clean out the lower South end of the Harz Mountains. The 39th RCT with TFI attached made a wide envelopment to the NW in an effort to out flank from the rear the remaining German troops in the pocket. The 47th RCT also swung to the NW to tie in the south flank of the 39th RCT and thence to drive to the West to crush all remaining German elements against the 60th RCT. Contact was made to the North with elements of the XIX Corps, 9th Army, vicinity Waldau (D740620). The Battalion continued to give close support to the attack. Enemy resistance was almost nil and over 2000 Pws were taken during the period.

Co. A - Company attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. Platoons attached to respective Battalions. 1st platoon attached to the 1st Battalion gave close support to the Battalion in its attack on Weltsleben and organized the AT defenses of the town. The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion gave close support to the Battalion and occupied AT positions vicinity D554553 and D578561. The 3rd platoon attached to the 3rd Battalion gave close support to the Battalion firing 10 rds HE, and 6 rds APC at targets holding up the advance of the Infantry. AT positions were occupied at D665606 and D683621. The 2nd platoon fired 45 rds HE at enemy infantry and road blocks holding up the advance of the 2nd Battalion. Results of the firing of both the 2nd and 3rd platoons were excellent. 3 CP vehicles destroyed.

Co. B - Company attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. 1st platoon in direct support of the 1st Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity D296438 and D301458. The 2nd platoon in direct support of the 2nd Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity D348461, D356438, and D361438. The 3rd platoon in direct support of the 3rd Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity D205471.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon attached to the 1st Battalion moved with the Battalion and occupied AT positions vicinity D438420. The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion gave close support to the Battalion firing 13 rds APC and 3 rds HE at infantry targets of opportunity with unknown results. The platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D430440 and D454480. The 3rd platoon attached to TFFincher gave close support to the TF in its attack on and capture of Wirschleben (D735553), Flotskau (D725570) and Aderstadt (D732608) and the RJ at D738619. Elements of the XIX Corp, 9th Army, was contacted by the platoon at the latter road junction. The platoon occupied AT positions vicinity of the above RJ.

Ren. Co - Attached to TFCarter. Continued to hold same road blocks.

Bn. CP - Moved to Wippra (D457363).

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17, 1945 - Cont'd

M-36's Operational - 26

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Material Destroyed - 3 GP vehicles
 Ammunition Expended - 19 rds APC 58 rds HE

Apr. 18, 1945 - The Division continued to attack to complete the envelopment started yesterday. TF Birke was organized consisting of the 39th ROT, TPT, and the 4th Cav Group to speed up the envelopment. The Battalion continued to give close support and AT protection to the Division.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. No change in attachments of platoons. The company continued to give close support to the respective Battalions. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D551528. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D488547. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D457598.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. No change in the assignment of the platoons in the Regiment. The 1st platoon fired 3 rds HE in support of its Battalion and occupied AT positions vicinity D299460. The platoon captured 1 PW. The 2nd platoon in support of the 2nd Battalion fired 9 rds APC at enemy SP guns forcing their withdrawal. The platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D349461 and D361438. The 3rd platoon in support of the 3rd Battalion fired 14 rds HE and 1 rd APC at enemy infantry holding the advance of the Battalion. The platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D275479, took 111 PWs, fired 16 HE, 2 APC.

Co. C - Two platoons attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. One platoon attached to TPT and at 1530 hours the platoon was released from attachment to TPT and attached to TFBirke. The 1st platoon attached to the 1st Battalion supported the attack of the Battalion and occupied AT positions vicinity D455510. The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion supported the attack of the Battalion and occupied AT positions vicinity D398451. The 1st and 2nd platoons captured 12 PWs. The 3rd platoon attached to TPT moved to assembly area vicinity Welbeleben (D555520) and joined TFBirke. The platoon was further attached to the 4th Cav Group and moved forward in their attack and occupied AT positions vicinity D400580.

Hon. Co - Attached to TFC. Initially remained on same road blocks. Upon contact with the 1st Infantry Division, at about 1400 hours the company was released from the road blocks and given the mission of patrolling all roads in the rear of the Division in the vicinity of former road blocks. 34 PWs captured.

Hq. Co - Moved to vicinity D439398.

M-36's Operational - 31

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Material Destroyed - Unknown - 158 PWs captured.
 Ammunition Expended - 12 rds APC 33 rds HE

Apr. 19, 1945 - The Division continued to police up the Harz Mountains area within zone. Scattered groups were met throughout the day with very little resistance being met. The Battalion continued to provide close support wherever possible.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Gernrode (D355528). The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity D334517 and D351516.

Report of Operations - Month of April 1945.~~SECRET~~19, 1945 - Cont'd

The 3rd platoon attached to the 3rd Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity Quedlinburg (D354593). 28 PWs captured by the Company.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon remained in Regimental reserve AT positions vicinity D317475 and D326488. The 2nd platoon remained with the 2nd Battalion occupying AT positions vicinity D356483 and D362488. The 3rd platoon working with the 3rd Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity D290491 and D294498.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. The 1st platoon attached to the 1st Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity Ballenstedt (D420527). The platoon fired 20 rds APC and 14 rds HE destroying one GP vehicle, killing 20 enemy and capturing 13 PWs. The 2nd platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion occupied AT positions vicinity D143504 and D397452. The 3rd platoon attached to TF Birks occupied AT positions vicinity D325548. The platoon fired 23 rds APC and 25 rds HE in general support of the Infantry.

Hon. Co - Attached to TF Carter. Continued on same road patrols.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 1 GP vehicle 41 PWs captured

Ammunition Expended - 43 rds APC 89 rds HE



Apr. 20, 1945 - The Division continued on the same mission. All organized resistance in the Mountains ceased and prisoners are coming in from all over using their own transportation. The Battalion continued to support the Division.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. No change in attachments of platoons. The 1st platoon in AT positions vicinity D353528, captured 30 PWs. The 2nd platoon in AT positions vicinity D355535, captured 30 PWs. The 3rd platoon in AT positions vicinity D353594, captured 14 PWs.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. No change in assignments of platoons. The 1st platoon destroyed 2 half-tracks vicinity D335491 and took 6 PWs, expending 5 rds APC and 5 rds HE. The 3rd platoon captured 42 PWs. The company assembled vicinity Company CP at D295435.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment. No change in assignments of platoons. The 3rd platoon remained attached to TF Birks. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D423526 and destroyed one motorcycle and 2 GP vehicles vicinity D457543 and captured 21 PWs. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D433536. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity D321584. The 1st platoon expended 26 rds APC and 14 rds HE.

Hon. Co - Attached to TF Carter. Continued on same road patrols. Company captured 20 PWs.

M-36's Operational - 34

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Materiel Destroyed - 2 Half-tracks and 3 GP vehicles. 193 PWs captured.

Ammunition Expended - 31 rds APC 19 rds HE

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(14) - Report of Operations - Month of April 1945.

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Apr. 21, 1945 - The Division remained inactive during the day, the Harz Mountains having been cleaned up. The Division made preparations for future operations. The Battalion performed 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance.

Co. A - No change in status. Platoons remained in the same positions.

Co. B - No change in status. Platoons remained in the same positions.

Co. C - No change in status. The 3rd platoon reverted to company control, having been relieved from attachment to FFBirke. The platoon returned to the Company CP. No other changes in positions.

Ron. Co - Relieved from attachment to FPCarter. Ron platoons reverted to direct support of their respective Gun Companies.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None



Apr. 22, 1945 - The Division commenced move to the Kothzen (D9359) area, to relieve the 3rd Arm'd Division in position along the Mulde River. During the midst of the move the remainder of the Division was recommitted in the Harz Mountains Forest to complete the job of policing up the remaining Germans. Upon arrival in new area the Battalion has mission of organizing Division AT defenses in depth.

Co. A - No change.

Co. B - Attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment. Moved with the Regiment to the vicinity Kothzen and reverted to Battalion control. Company CP located at Thalheim (E110495). The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Bobbau-Steinfurth (E144523) and (E138551). The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Wolfen and Greppin (E140493) and (E160478). The 3rd platoon remained in reserve vicinity Co CP.

Co. C - No change.

Ron Co - 1st and 3rd platoons remained in direct support of their respective Gun Companies. The 2nd platoon in direct support of Company B, moved with the Company, and performed SOP Ron missions. Pioneer platoon conducted road patrols policing up Division rear areas.

Hq. Co - Moved to Kothzen, Germany (D953589).

Rn. PWD CP moved to Kothzen, Germany (D937592).

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 23, 1945 - The Division, less the 60th ROT, continued to police up the Harz Mountains within zone. The 60th ROT remained in defensive positions on the Mulde River. The Battalion continued to support the Division.

Co. A - No change.

Co. B - Upon change of Division sector the Company CP moved to Thurland (E100557). The 1st platoon assembled in mobile positions vicinity E133550. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity E136534 and E145522. The 3rd platoon remained in reserve moved to Thurland.

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April 23, 1945 - Cont'd

Co. C - No change.

Ren. Co - Ren platoons no change. The Pioneer platoon continued on road patrols and captured 30 PWs.

M-36's Operational - 32

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None



Apr. 24, 1945 - The Division continued the relief of the 3rd Arm'd Div with the movement of the 47th RCT from the Harz Mountains area to the Mulde River vicinity Dessau. No aggressive action was taken by the Division with the exception of patrol activities East of the Mulde River. The Battalion continued to provide depth to the Division AT defenses.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. The company assembled in Gernrode in preparation for move to vicinity Dessau. 1st echelon maintenance performed throughout the period.

Co. B - No change of status or positions. The company continued the screening of civilians within the company area.

Co. C - Attached to the 47th Infantry Regiment for movement to the Kothen area. The company left the Ballenstedt area at 1030 hours and marched 58 miles and closed vicinity Quellendorf (E0359) at 1545 hours. Upon arrival the company reverted to Battalion control for operations. The company was placed in Division reserve. 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Kochstedt (E066644). The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Quellendorf (E036587). The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Hinsdorf (E053563).

Ren. Co - 1st platoon in direct support of Co A remained with the company in Gernrode. The 2nd platoon in direct support of Co B continued SOP reconnaissance missions for the company. The 3rd platoon in direct support of Co C moved with the company to vicinity Kothen performing route reconnaissance and position reconnaissance. Co CP and Pioneer platoon moved to Kothen (D937591).

M-36's Operational - 32

Vehicular Losses - None

Casualties - None

Enemy Material Destroyed - None

Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 25, 1945 - The Division continued the relief of the 3rd Arm'd Div with the movement of the 39th RCT to the Dessau area. Patrols were continued across the Mulde River in an effort to contact the Russian Army. Hundreds of prisoners are being taken.

Co. A - Attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment. The company moved with the Regiment to the vicinity Dessau arriving at 1700 hours. Upon arrival the company reverted to Battalion control and occupied AT positions within the 39th Infantry sector. The 1st platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Alten (E073678). The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Aken (D969706). The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions in Dessau (E107695). The company CP located in Alten (E073687).

Co. B - No change.

Co. C - No change.

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(16) - Report of Operations - Month of April 1945.

~~SECRET~~Apr. 25, 1945 - Cont'd

Hon. Co - 2 M-8's and 2 jeeps from each Hon platoon and 3 M-20's from the Pioneer platoon were attached to Lt Col Humfer, CO 746th TK Bn, for rear area security of the Division. Patrols were active from Kothen to Aschersleben.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 26, 1945 - The Division remained in defensive positions on the Mulde River awaiting juncture with the Russian Army. Patrols were active throughout the day east of the Mulde River and Germans within the Mulde and the Elbe Rivers continued to surrender in large numbers. The Battalion remained in TD positions protecting the Division against any possible armored attack.

Co. A - No change.

Co. B - The 1st and 2nd platoons - no change. The 3rd platoon was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment and one section moved to AT positions vicinity Tschornowitz (E230564) in support of Co I, 60th Infantry.

Co. C - No change.

Hon. Co - Continued patrolling of Division rear areas under the direction of the Division Rear Area Security Commander - Lt Col Humfer.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None



Apr. 27, 1945 - The Division remained in defensive positions on the Mulde River. Patrols of the 60th Infantry Regiment made contact with the Russians on the Elbe River at 1920 hours. No change in status of the Battalion.

Co. B - 3rd platoon relieved from attachment to the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, and reverted to Company control. The platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Tornau (E074559). No other changes in the Company.

Remainder of the Battalion - no change. 1st echelon maintenance performed throughout the day.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 28, 1945 - No changes within the Battalion. Companies continued 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance of vehicles. "C" Co CP moved to Koestedt (E069647).

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~~SECRET~~Apr. 28, 1945 - Cont'd

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 29, 1945 - The Division remained in defensive positions along the Mulde River. The Division extended its southern flank to include the area formerly held by the 415th Infantry Regiment of the 104th Infantry Division. The Battalion side-slipped to the south with the changing of the Division's southern boundary. The Battalion remained responsible for the Division TD defenses in depth.

Co. A - No change.

Co. B - Co CP moved to vicinity Bitterfeld (E163447). The 1st platoon occupied reserve positions in Bitterfeld vicinity of the Co CP. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity E139505 and E183459. The 3rd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity E205447.

Co. C - 1st and 3rd platoons - no change. The 2nd platoon occupied AT positions vicinity Zohbitz (E040510).

Ren. Co - Continued rear area police of Division rear area.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None
 Ammunition Expended - None

Apr. 30, 1945 - The Division continued the defense of the Mulde River. Patrols were again active east of the river. The Battalion continued to provide TD defenses in depth for the division.

Co. A - On 26 April the 2nd platoon from positions in Aken fired 17 rds HE and 500 rds Cal 50 at enemy infantry dug in across the Elbe River. Results of fire unknown. For today no change in positions.

Co. B - Platoons maintained road blocks in same positions and continued screening civilians.

Co. C - Platoons maintained road blocks in same positions and continued screening civilians.

Ren. Co - The company continued to patrol the Division rear area.

M-36's Operational - 33

Vehicular Losses - None
 Casualties - None
 Enemy Materiel Destroyed - None (26 April unknown)
 Ammunition Expended - 17 rds HE and 500 rds Cal 50 MG



For the Battalion Commander:

Harley N. Miller
 HARLEY N. MILLER,
 Major, 899th T.D. Bn.,

26-3.

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**HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230 U.S. ARMY**

SECRET
By Authority of Com. g. Gen. 9th Inf. Div.
Date <u>3 May 1945.</u>
Initials _____

SECTION III - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

ANNEX I - Report of Operations of Task Force Tincher - 15-19 Apr 45.

Maps: Central Germany, Scale 1/100,000 - Sheets P5, P6, Q5 and Q6.

Per verbal orders CG 9th Inf Div on 14 April 1945, Task Force Tincher was organized to protect the rear and the north flank of the of the Div as it attacked to the East within zone through the Harz Mountains. The Task Force became operational at 0700 hours 15 April 1945.

The Task Force was organized as follows:

- Commanded by Lt Col Maxwell A. Tincher.
- Task Force CP composed of elements of Bn Hq, 899th TD Bn.
- Co "C", 39th Inf Regt, 9th Inf Div.
- 9th Recon Troop, 9th Inf Div.
- Recon Co., 899th TD Bn.
- Co "D", 746th TK Bn. (Upon arrival)
- Mortar Platoon, 746th TK Bn.
- Assault Gun Platoon, 746th TK Bn.
- Assault Guns, Cos. "A", "B", and "C", 746th TK Bn.
- One Platoon, Co. "A", 746th TK Bn.
- 3rd Platoon, Co. "C", 899th TD Bn.
- One Platoon, 15th Engr Bn, 9th Inf Div.
- 9th Inf Div Artillery in General Support.



The Task Force was given the mission of establishing a series of road blocks, augmented by strong patrols, protecting the north flank and rear of the Div and preventing enemy infiltration in the rear of the Div. For sectors see FO No. 1, Hq TPT, 15 April 1945, attached.

It was decided to divide the area between the large Reconnaissance elements within the Task Force, namely the 9th Recon Troop, the Recon Co, 899th TD Bn, and Co "D", 746th TK Bn (upon arrival) with minor attachments to secure the road blocks and patrolling with a strong highly mobile reserve as a counter-attack force centrally located to attack in any area in the event of a penetration by the enemy. The sector was divided as follows: The 9th Recon Troop was given the sector or responsibility along a general line D150337 - D180360 - D200395 - D216429 - Gunterberge - Siptenfelde, with road blocks to be established at Nos: 1 - D148337, 2 - D172339, 3 - D181359, 4 - D199395, 5 - D216428, 6 - D248438, 7 - D277442, 8 - D289437, and 9 - D296440. Recon Co, 899th TD Bn was given the sector of responsibility on a general line Siptenfelde - Harzgerode - East to D475440, with road blocks to be established at Nos: 10 - D310440, 11 - D315446, 12 - D335438, 13 - D356440, 14 - D360442, 15 - D362437, 16 - D383428, 17 - D402425, 18 - D411423, 19 - D443443, 20 - D475445. Co "D", 746th TK Bn (upon arrival) was to establish road blocks on all roads leading into the Div sector to the East of Recon Co 899th TD Bn. Co "C", 39th Inf Reg't (less one platoon), with attachments, was in mobile reserve in Strassberg (D2940).

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15 April 1945 - 9th Ren Troop (attached: Assault Gun Platoon, 746th Bn and One Platoon, 15th Engr Bn) and Ren Co, 899th TD Bn (attached: Assault Guns, Cos A, B and C, 746th TK Bn, Mortar Platoon, 746th TK Bn) had established road blocks Nos 1 to 15 within respective zones, complete with abatis and mine fields. One platoon, Co C, 39th Inf Reg't was used to strengthen road blocks, Nos 10, 11, and 12 where considerable enemy activity was observed throughout the day. Mortar concentrations were fired in the area with excellent results. Artillery concentrations were fired in the Allrode (D2447) area by 9th Ren Troop during the day. Co "C", 39th Inf Reg't (attached: Tank Platoon, 746th TK Bn. Direct Support: 3rd Platoon, Co C, 899th TD Bn) remained in reserve in Strassberg with no contact with the enemy.

On 16 April 1945 per verbal orders Ass't AC of S, G-3, 9th Inf Div, Task Force Tinscher was relieved of the responsibility for the area Harzgerode and all East thereof. As such the sector of responsibility within the Task Force was changed as follows: 9th Ren Troop was given the areas bounded by road blocks Nos. 1 to 5 to secure, upon being relieved of the responsibility for road blocks 7 to 9 inclusive. Ren Co, 899th TD Bn, was given the responsibility of the area bounded by road blocks 5 to 12 inclusive.

Upon being relieved by elements of Ren Co, 899th TD Bn, the elements of 9th Ren Troop covering road blocks 7, 8 and 9 assembled in the Stolberg (D2335) area as a local reserve for the Troop. The Assault Guns and Engr Platoon holding Guntersberge remained and were attached to Ren Co, 899th TD Bn. The 2nd Bn, 60th Inf Reg't assumed responsibility for the town of Harzgerode and relieved elements of Ren Co, 899th TD Bn.

During the period 150700 April to 161600 April, 250 PWs were processed by the Task Force and turned over to the 47th Inf Reg't.

At 1600 hours 16 April the Task Force was reorganized and attached to the 39th Inf Reg't for operations.

The Task Force was relieved of the responsibility of its present area by Task Force Carter and prepared to march to the area Belleben (D6948).

The Task Force now consisted of:

Co "C", 39th Inf Reg't.

3rd Platoon, Co "C", 899th TD Bn.

Mortar Platoon, 746th TK Bn.

Assault Gun Platoon, 746th TK Bn.

One Tank Platoon, Co "A", 746th TK Bn.

Co "D", 746th TK Bn (less one platoon) on arrival.

The remaining elements of the original TF Tinscher were attached to TF Carter.

At 1850 hours, 16 April, the Task Force marched to the Belleben area and arrived there at 1200 hours 17 April and became attached to the 39th Inf Reg't for operations. The Task Force was ordered to attack at 0800 hours 17 April, and seize the towns of Gr Wirshleben (D735554), Plolzka (D725562), Aderstedt (D731602, and the RJ at D738619, secure the same and protect the right flank of the Reg't and the East flank of the Div. The Task Force moved to Alsleben (D7252) and prepared for the attack.

Report of Operations of Task Force Tinscher - Cont'dSECRET

The plan of attack was as follows: Co "C", 39th Inf Reg't (attached: 1st Platoon, 746th TK Bn, Mortar Platoon, 746th TK Bn. Direct Support: 2nd Platoon, Co "C", 899th TD Bn. General Support: Assault Gun Platoon, 746th TK Bn) was to attack to the north along the main Alsleben-Plolzka highway in a column of platoons followed by the Tanks and TD's to secure Hill 101 (D724553) in preparation for the attack on Gr Wirschleben and Plolzka. The tanks and TD's were to establish a base of fire on Hill 101 to cover the Infantry as it attacked the two towns. Upon the capture of the two towns elements of the Infantry Company were to remain to secure the towns and the remainder of the Task Force was to proceed to Aderstedt, attacking the town from the SW and upon capture of the town to attack to the NE and secure the RJ at D738619. Upon completion of the capturing of the towns the wooded areas to the East, which extended to the Saale River, were to be combed.

The attack went off as scheduled and the town of Gr Wirschleben was captured without a fire fight by two squads of Infantry. As the Infantry approached the town of Plolzka, a short fire fight developed but was quickly stopped and the town captured with the capture of 150 PWs. The town of Aderstedt was captured by 1330 hours without a fight and the RJ to the NE was secured. After the capture of Plolzka, two squads of Infantry and a section of Tanks policed up the woods to the NE of the town and after a short fire fight over 130 PWs were taken from the woods with the loss of 5 EM lightly wounded. No other contact with the enemy was made during the day. Elements of the XIX US Corp were contacted vicinity D759631 (Waldau).

The area was organized for defense as follows:

Alsleben was defended by one squad of Infantry and the Assault Gun Platoon.

Gr Wirschleben was defended by two squads of Infantry.

Plolzka was defended by one platoon of Infantry and one section of Tanks.

Aderstedt was defended by two squads of Infantry and one section of Tanks.

The RJ at D738619 was held by one squad of Infantry and one Platoon of TD's.

The Task force CP was in Plolzka.

During the night motorized Infantry patrols were sent out to maintain contact with all elements of the Task Force.

The following day, 18 April 1945, the Task Force was relieved by elements of the 9th Recon Troop and ordered to assemble vicinity Welbsleben (D547520). The move was completed by 1300 hours. Upon arrival the Task Force was again partially disbanded and attached to Task Force Birks for operations. All elements of Task Force Tinscher except the CP group and the Mortar Platoon, 746th TK Bn, were relieved from attachment and attached direct to TFBirks. The remnants of TF Tinscher were attached to TF Birks and given the mission of coordinating the TD defenses of the larger task force.

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(4) - Report of Operations of Task Force Tinchner - Cont'd

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All TD elements of the TF were contacted and plans for the reinforcement of any sector were completed. One TD platoon was held in reserve vicinity Welbsleben.

The following morning, 190700 April 1945, the remaining element of Task Force Tinchner (the Mortar Platoon) was relieved of attachment and returned to its parent unit and TF Tinchner was dissolved per VO AC of S, G-3, 9th Inf Div.

For the Battalion Commander:



Harley N. Miller
HARLEY N. MILLER,
Major, 899th T. D. Bn.,
S-3.

2 Incls:

PO No. 1, Hq TFT
TFT Journal

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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230
U.S. ARMY

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By Authority of
Comdg. Gen. 9th Inf. Div.
Date _____
Initials 3 May 1945

SECTION III - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

ANNEX II - Report of Operation of Task Force Carter - 16-20 Apr. 45.

Maps: Central Germany, Scale 1/100,000 - Sheet P5.

At 161430 April 1945 I was told by CG, 9th Infantry Division that TF Tincher would be relieved of present sector and mission and would operate in conjunction with the 39th Infantry Regiment on a flanking and enveloping mission. Task Force Carter would be formed effective immediately and would take over the mission and area previously assigned to TF Tincher.

TF Carter was attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment effective 1600B, 16 April with the mission of protecting the West flank of the 9th Inf Div. TFC was composed as follows: Recon Co, 899th TD Bn; Co B, 899th TD Bn; 1 Platoon Co B, 15th Engr Bn; Assault Guns Co A, B and C, 746th Tank Bn; 1 Platoon Co D, 746th Tank Bn (upon arrival). General Support - 18th FA Bn and 965th FA Bn.

Liaison established with FA Bns and defensive fires arranged to be placed on areas in front of all blocks along the East-West road from Harzgerode to RJ west of Guntersberge. The blocks along the North-South defensive line were not suitably located for artillery support owing to the location of adjacent friendly troops.

Task Force Carter CP consisted of Major Carter Task Force CO; Capt Alvin E Gourley, CO Recon Co acting as Task Force Executive Officer, in addition to other duties; 1st Lt Leslie B Dorr, Executive Officer, Recon Co, was given staff duties of S-1, 2, 3 and 4. Three radio operators maintained communications (NCS 608 and 506 radio) and telephone contact with all units in force and 9th Inf Div. Radio contact was maintained by means of one radio vehicle from each unit (less Engineers and Infantry) and a radio car from 9th Signal Co for radio communication with 9th Inf Div CP. PW interrogation and supervision of PW Cage - Pfc Rothschild, Recon Co, 899th TD Bn.

At approximately 1530 hours I took over area from TPT and reassigned troops to road blocks to relieve elements of TPT. I contacted CO, 60th Inf and arranged for liaison and commitment of his reserve Battalion in the event any sizeable element should penetrate the screen set up by my Recon units.

Four road blocks consisting of mines and abattis were installed between Nuestadt and Breitenstein to cover the West flank of the Division sector and to assure a warning system in the event of an encirclement or a penetration around the left flank of the 60th Inf. Road blocks were covered by two M-36's on the two southern blocks. M-36's were in turn protected by automatic weapons and personnel from the security section of the TD Company. The Northern two blocks were each covered by a car, Armored Light M-8 supported by 2 jeeps, automatic weapons and small arms. A road block consisting of 2 Medium Tanks and a squad of Infantry covering a main intersection West of Guntersberge was installed and maintained by the 60th Infantry.

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Per J. J. Jettis, ASAK
20 Dec 57

- Report of Operations of Task Force Center - Cont'd.

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block consisting of a minefield covered by 50 cal and 30 cal MG small arms of individual troops was maintained NE of Guntersberge the Engr Platoon. A small strong point consisting of a Car Armored Light M-20, 30 cal MG's mounted on jeeps (all weapons manned by vehicle crews) was placed along the NE slope of Hill between Guntersberge and Siptenfelde. This post overlooked a secondary road leading from woods to North and covered the open slope of the hill for a distance of approximately 1500 yards. At Siptenfelde approaches from the North were mined and covered by 2 Cars Armored Light M-20 and automatic weapons. Roads leading to the main highway from the North approximately 4 km West of Harzgerode were mined and blocked with abattis, then covered by direct automatic weapons fire from Light Armored Cars. Two assault guns were used to reinforce blocks on main North-South approaches approximately 2 km West of Harzgerode.

Verbal orders were issued, to all Commanders concerned, that prompt notification would be made by radio in the event of any threat or attempted penetration in the vicinity of our installations; that they would defend and delay insofar as practicable and withdraw only in the event that definitely superior odds were encountered; and that a warning system be maintained by them. Accurate reports of enemy encountered would be the basis for the commitment of the reserve Battalion of the 60th Inf in the event of such emergency.

During the night of 16th, 17th April, 9 PWs were taken. FO No. 63, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 162400 April 1945 was received at Hq TFC by messenger at 170800 April 1945, confirming units and attachments per VOCC 161430 April 1945. It was further specified that one Company, 2nd Bn, 60th Inf would remain motorized and available on call to TFC. "G" Co was so designated by CO, 60th Inf. FO prescribed TFC be detached from 60th Inf at 170700 April 1945 and that B Co, 899th TD Bn would remain under Div control. No change was made in original mission assigned TFC.

At 170500 April assault guns and light armored cars were moved in accordance with prearranged plan to Southern road blocks in order to release M-36's for close support of 1st Bn, 60th Inf. 1st Bn, 60th Inf jumped off at 0700 passing NE in the general area between Guntersberge and Siptenfelde. The Platoon of Engr remained in NE edge of Guntersberge covering one road block still in place and the road where mines had been removed to allow the passage of friendly infantry. CO, Recon Co was ordered to maintain light armored vehicles and jeeps in vicinity Siptenfelde and hill between Siptenfelde and Guntersberge. G Co, 60th Inf ordered to move to vicinity road block previously covered by assault guns and light armored cars. At approximately 1200 hours mines were ordered removed from all road blocks because of the advance of friendly Infantry. Patrolling and contact with adjacent troops having established the fact that a wooded pocket at the southern extremity of the Western flank was free of enemy troops, the two southern road blocks were discontinued and moved to (1) reinforce the Engineers NE of Guntersberge, (2) take over the road block West of Guntersberge, formerly occupied by 60th Inf and (3) to reinforce roadblock at key intersection of secondary roads located SW of Breitenstein. Personnel from road blocks previously located between Siptenfelde and Harzgerode were ordered to discontinue their mission as such and to conduct a patrol from road block at D176361 South to high ground overlooking the town of Neustadt.



99th TD Bn was ordered to operate in close support of Inf Bns i.e. 1st Platoon in each Bn sector, the 2nd Platoon blocking armored approaches from the NE, the 3rd Platoon blocking approaches from the NW, the 1st Platoon blocking approaches from the north center and prepared to move to either flank in case of emergency. PWs captured - 15.

At close of days operations, 3rd Bn, 60th Inf occupied the town of Allrode. 1st Bn held a line approximately 1500 yards to the south running roughly East and West toward the 2nd Bn who occupied the town of Alexiebad and the outskirts of Magdesprung.

18 April 45 - At 0030 message was received from G-3 that in addition to present mission TFC would be charged with (a) Maintaining close contact with 60th Inf Reg't. (b) Be prepared to reinforce 60th Inf Reg't on order.

0035 hours message was received from Div G-3, that one (1) Platoon of light tanks from 4th Cav Gp were being attached to TFC effective 180800 and were to be held in reserve in vicinity Silberhutte.

Early morning reconnaissance indicated that there was no further need for road block at 178361 and plans were made to discontinue same pending approval of G-3.

At 0940B, G-3, 9th Inf Div, phoned information that Co "D", 746th Tank Bn (less one platoon) would be attached to TFC and that upon arrival of the first platoon of same, the platoon of Light Tanks from 4th Cav Gp, were to be released to rejoin their organization.

At 1015 hours, C of S, 9th Inf Div, phoned and ordered TFC to release 1 Arm'd car, with 608 radio, and six jeeps to TFC and to instruct commander of vehicles to report to TFC at GP, 39th Inf Reg't immediately. Vehicles were on their way at 1230B.

At 1100 hours recommendation was made to G-3 that Southern road blocks be discontinued and troops along west flank be shifted to insure more rapid assistance to 60th Inf in the central portion of their sector. Patrol was recommended to cover western flank to include the northern extremity where the left flank of the 9th Inf Div joined the right flank of the 1st Inf Div.

1145 - 1 platoon of light tanks from 4th Cav Gp reported, were refueled at Reconnaissance Co and sent to Silberhutte with instructions to remain there in mobile reserve. Communication by telephone to GP, 2nd Bn, 60th Inf.

1205 - Received notification from G-3 that Co D, 746th Tank Bn, was on the way expected to arrive TFC shortly.

1400 - Notified by G-3 that CG, 9th Inf Div authorizes removal of road blocks along west flank and establishing of patrols to cover area.

1405 - 1 platoon Co D, 746th Tank Bn arrived. Platoon Leader stated that Co Hqs and another platoon would arrive shortly. Platoon sent to reserve positions in Silberhutte and platoon Leader (4th Cav Gp) notified that he was relieved and told to return to his unit.

1410 - Was notified by G-3 that 9th Recon Trp (less one (1) platoon) was attached to TFC and that they would assemble in Neustadt during the afternoon.

1412 - Co Hq and remaining platoon Co D, 746th Tank Bn arrived and G-3 was so notified. G-3 directed that one (1) platoon light tanks be moved to Harzgerode to cover eastern and north-eastern approaches to the town. One platoon from Co "E", 60th Inf was ordered by Division to furnish local protection for the light tanks.



Report of Operations of Task Force Center - Cont'd

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1415 hours - CO, Recon Co ordered to establish patrol of 1 M-8 and jeeps to cover road net from contact point at RJ 3 kilometers west of Guntersberge, NW to Stiege then NE to Allrode - Designated as North Patrol. Another (South) patrol, consisting of an M-8 and two jeeps, was to cover road south from contact point to Breitenstein then SW to RJ near 2040 grid intersection then south to German Hospital (D181329). Contact the Security Guard there and return over same route to starting point.

1445 hours - Light Tanks in position at Harzgerode with supporting infantry platoon (2 squads with North section and one squad with South section). One section M-36 Tank Destroyers from 2nd platoon, Co B, 899th TD Bn were in position near and covering the light tanks in the North section. Orders were given that these positions would be held until the 47th Inf joined the 60th Inf in that vicinity.

1530 hours (approximate) - The 47th Inf marched into Harzgerode from the NE.

1535 hours - Platoon of Light Tanks ordered to remain in position until further orders. CO, Co D, 746th Tank Bn notified of order given.

1630 hours - CO, 60th Inf requested assistance from armored vehicles to support Inf in "O" and "D" companies vicinity D305454 and to determine the strength of a sharp enemy thrust that might be a possible counter-attack.

One light Armored car, M-20, was dispatched from strong point on hill overlooking Silberhutte to patrol road from Silberhutte to Harzgerode and report by radio any enemy movement encountered. Another M-20 was followed by a 105mm SP Assault Gun plus one (1) squad of infantry and proceeded to D305454. No enemy was encountered and had apparently withdrawn as rapidly as he struck. At the request of the Bn Comdr, 1st Bn, 60th Inf, the wooded area from D305454 SE to main highway was patrolled but no enemy was found. One Mk IV Tank was discovered in a well concealed position at D308443. It had apparently been left hurriedly by it's crew. Attempts to move the tank were unsuccessful so it was destroyed. No other enemy materiel or personnel were found and patrol was discontinued at approximately 1830.

1930 hours - Reported to G-3, that the 9th Recon Trp (less 1 platoon) had closed in assembly area in Neudorf (D343396). G-3 instructed 1 platoon Engr, plus 1 light tank platoon be held in reserve in Silberhutte. Stated that assault guns were to be relieved as of 190700 to return to CP, 746th Tank Bn. Also notified that Co "G", 60th Inf would be attached to TFC effective 2000, and that Co Comdr and Regt'l Comdr had been so notified. It was specified that no part of TFC would be loaned or attached to other units and that present dispositions were to be maintained with the reserve able to move on 30 minutes notice to any part of the sector, hit resistance or counter-thrust, mop up and withdraw to a central part of the sector.

1935 hours - Order issued to Engr Platoon and Assault Guns to move to location of CP, Co "D", 746th Tank Bn and remain in reserves. Movement completed 2045. Assault Guns notified of detachment from TFC as of 190700 and instructed to move to CP, 746th Tank Bn at that time.

2130 hours - CG, 9th Inf Div, ordered patrolling generally east-west from Pansfelde through Harzgerode to Guntersberge. Patrols to be on road by first light and all troops alerted at dawn ready to move on a moments notice.



Report of Operations of Task Force Carter - Cont'd

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2135 hours - Ordered 9th Recon Trp to have 1 platoon on road just before first light and to patrol main road from Harzgerode NE to D454481 south to Fansfelde and return over same route. Also to have all personnel awake and ready to move from 0500 hours to 0800 hours.

2140 hours - Ordered CO, Recon Co, 899th TD Bn, to change patrol on SW flank just before daylight to road between contact point west of Guntersberge east to Harzgerode and return by same route. To have all other personnel awake and ready to move between 0500 hours to 0800 hours.

2145 hours - Ordered Light Tank Co, Assault Guns, and Engr Platoon to be alert between the hours of 0500 to 0800.

2150 hours - Ordered "G" Co, 60th Inf to be alert between the hours of 0500 to 0800.

2215 hours - Phone call from G-3, 9th Inf Div - Approved dispositions and was notified by TFC 6 that entire TF was on alert from 0500 to 0800 19 April. G-3 recommended that one Platoon, 9th Recon Trp be located vicinity D437470 and one Platoon located at D380448, that reserve elements be located in Harzgerode and that west patrol from Harzgerode to RJ west of Guntersberge be continued. Movement to be in advance of a "squeeze" between 47th and 60th Inf Reg'ts.

Permission was granted to discontinue patrol from RJ W of Guntersberge - Stiege - Allrode as soon as TFC 6 was sure the link-up between 3rd Bn, 60th Inf and right flank elements of 1st Inf Div were complete and all likely approaches covered.

G-3, stated that notification by phone would be given of the time a squeeze would take place between the 47th and 60th Inf Reg'ts at which time TFC would be prepared to take care of any enemy troops "flushed" by this move.

2305 hours - Captain Schaeffer from Div G-3 phoned message that enemy paratroops were being dropped near Ballenstedt in the 39th Inf Regimental sector. Number unknown.

2310 hours - Above message phoned to all elements of TFC.
No other activity during day. PWs captured - 16.

19 April 1945

0500 hours - Called all elements of TFC for report of activity near their respective locations. Negative report received from all of the above.

0600 hours - Telephone report from Captain Schaeffer from Div G-3: No more had been seen or heard from paratroopers reported previously. TFC report to G-3 that all units of TFC have given negative report as of 0500 and that no further reports have been received.

0610 hours - Report from CO, Recon Co, 899th TD Bn, states platoon patrolling from RJ west of Guntersberge - Stiege - Allrode report roads in that sector having medium to heavy traffic and that roads in junction of two divisions adequately covered with AT Guns and TD's.

CO, Recon Co, was ordered to discontinue above patrol and establish patrol from RJ west of Harzgerode north through Alexisbad - continue north to Magdesprung - SE and S through Harzgerode and W to starting point.

0900 hours - Reported to G-3 extent of patrols and that all reports were still negative as to resistance. Was notified that CG, 9th Inf Div, would visit TFC CP during forenoon.



Report of Operations of Task Force Oster - Cont'd.

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- 1030 hours - CG, 9th Inf Div visited TFC OP. Went over plans and positions with CO and outlined the assignments that were likely to occur in the near future.
- 1115 hours - G-3, 9th Inf Div, notified TFC 6 by phone that at 1300 hours the "squeeze" would begin.
- 1120 - 9th Recon Troop ordered to maintain one platoon vicinity D437470 and one platoon vicinity D380448 as of 1245 hours and to continue small patrols between Harzgerode and West platoon, between platoons and east to RJ 2 km north of Pansfelde.
- 1125 hours - CO, Recon Co, notified of time of "squeeze" and that there would be no change in mission. Was ordered to be especially alert in vicinity near Magdesprung for enemy flushed out of woods to the NE.
- 1130 hours - CO, Co "D", 746th Tank Bn, ordered to move to E edge of Harzgerode at 1230 and to caution platoon guarding eastern approaches to be especially watchful for enemy emerging from woods to the NE. Engr Platoon given order by same phone call that they would move to Harzgerode with Light Tanks.
- 1133 hours - "G" Co, 60th Inf, ordered to move to Eastern edge of Harzgerode at 1230 hours.
- 1230 - Forward elements TFC OP moved to Harzgerode.
- 1250 - All elements TFC less Recon patrols TD's and rear echelons assembled in Harzgerode. Notification sent to G-3.
- 1330 hours - Platoon from "E" Co, 60th Inf authorized by Division to be relieved and rejoin company.
- 1340 hours - One squad Engr relieved Infantry with Light Tanks. One squad Engr detailed to operate PW enclosure.
- 1430 hours - Section of TD's moved from Harzgerode to vicinity Magdesprung. All 3 platoons Co "B", 899th TD Bn, continued in close support of Inf Bns. Enemy continued to come out of woods in small groups and with no organized resistance. PWs taken during day - 302.
- 2300 hours - CG, 9th Inf Div ordered 1 platoon Infantry, 2 Light Tanks and 2 Arm'd cars to arrive at daylight vicinity of 9th Div Arty Air Strip SE Wippra (D455363) to find and capture or destroy a group of enemy arm'd with small arms and light automatic weapons.
- 2305 hours - 1 platoon Infantry, 2 Light Tanks, 2 Arm'd cars placed under command of platoon leader Infantry platoon, notified of mission and ordered to move out at 0400 hours.
- 2325 hours - Executive Officer, 9th Div Arty phoned concerning force to clear out Air Strip and arranged for guide to meet force in Wippra.
- 2345 hours - G-3 assigned an area for patrolling of all secondary roads. Area extended D204403 - D215428 - Gunterberge - SE to Strassberg NE to RJ D335438 - through Harzgerode - NE to Pansfelde - SE to D475445 - SE to D505418 - SW to RJ D444389 - W thru Konigerode - NW to D390407 - SW to Neudorf - SW to RJ D271374 - NW to D204403.
- 2350 hours - A dividing line was set in center of patrol area from Harzgerode S to RJ D364815 - SE to D390407. The eastern sector assigned to 9th Recon Troop, the Western sector assigned to Recon Co, 899th TD Bn, CO's aware informed of areas of responsibility and instructed that patrolling would be in progress by first light on 20 April.
- 2355 hours - G-3 notified TFC of change in orders for force to move to Air Strip - i.e. that force would be held on alert in Harzgerode, ready to move in 15 minutes, between 0400 and 0800. If not called by 0800, the alert would be discontinued.



Report of Operations of Task Force Carter - Cont'd.

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2358 hours - Platoon leader of Force to police Air Strip notified of change in orders. Patrols were discontinued during night. Strong point consisting of one(1) platoon, 9th Recon Troop, remained vicinity D437470 throughout night. Remainder TFC assembled in Hargerode. No resistance of consequence throughout day. Only three or four small groups showed fight when told to surrender. PWs captured - 281.

20 April 1945

0005 hours - Received order from G-3, 9th Div to investigate small arms fire vicinity D4348. Order given CO, 9th Recon Troop - Report received at 0055 hours that SA fire was friendly and that no enemy fire was apparent. Div G-3, so notified at 0100 hours.

Negative reports began coming from patrols at approximately 0545 hours and continued throughout day.

Force on 0400 hours to 0800 hours alert did not receive call to move to air field vicinity Wippra.

No activity during forenoon.

1015 hours - Visited CP, 60th Inf requested permission from CO, 60th Inf to withdraw Co B, 899th TD Bn from Battalion areas and assemble Co in area just East of Siptensfelde so that 1st echelon maintenance, oil changes, etc., could be performed.

1155 hours - Approval of CO, 60th Inf to assemble "B" Co, 899th TD Bn phoned to TFC 6.

1200 hours - Phoned Div G-3 to get approval from C of S for assembly of "B" Co, approval of CO, 60th Inf already obtained was so stated.

1400 hours - Notified by Major Huber, G-3, section, that C of S had approved the assembling of "B" Company.

1405 hours - B Company ordered to assemble vicinity Co CP. Movement completed 1530 hours.

1650 hours - CG, 9th Inf Div visited CP, 9th Recon Troop for the purpose of awarding Silver Star to Capt Hortoff, Troop Commander. No further action throughout day. PWs taken - 57.

Patrolling in assigned sectors resumed at daylight. Negative reports received throughout day.

210310 hours - Location of factory, radio shop and labor camp given to MG with request for security guard to take over prior to relief and disbanding of TFC expected to occur the 21st. Was informed by MG that relieving unit would be notified of locations and guards posted by them. No further action throughout day. PWs captured - 5.

211640 hours - Order received from G-3, 9th Div, that CG, 9th Inf Div orders TFC dissolved as of 1630-B hours. All units notified and released to parent units.

For the Battalion Commander:

Daniel M. Carter
 DANIEL M. CARTER,
 Major, 899th TD Bn.,
 Commanding TFC.



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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230 U.S. ARMY

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By Authority 9JG/plw
Comdg. Gen. 9th Inf. Div.
Date _____
Initials _____
1 May 1945

SECTION V - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

Part I

STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED

	Officers			Enlisted Men		
	Assigned	Gain	Loss	Assigned	Gain	Loss
April 1, 1945	29			589		
April 30, 1945	34	5		594	5	
Reinforcements Received:	10					
Temporary Duty:						
Officers	1					
Enlisted Men:	20					



Part II

CASUALTIES

Name	Rank	ASN	Type Casualty	Date of Wound
Stanley, Berne R.	Tec 5	35767732	LIA	8 April 45
Kemble, Edward F.	Pvt 1cl	36356110	MIA	3 April 45
Smilansky, Jr., Paul S.	Pvt 1cl	31338261	KIA	7 April 45
Hopkins, Raymond L.	Pvt 1cl	35090051	LWA	10 April 45

Part III

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS, UNIT CITATIONS

Silver Star

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Howard O. Scott	0887345	1st Lt.	CO 47, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 5 Apr 45

Bronze Star

Name	ASN	Rank	Authority
Elmer R. Kroll	38397621	Cpl.	CO 47, Hq, 9th Inf Div, 5 Apr 45

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Per JE Pitts, AB AK
10 Dec 57

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Part III

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS, UNIT CITATIONS

Purple Heart

<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Authority</u>
William T. Ross	: 36501579	: Pvt lcl	: GO 24, 178th Gen. Hosp., 20 Mar 45
Merritt L. Boyd	: 37039637	: T/Sgt.	: GO 8, Hq. 899th TD Bn., 1 May 45
Wayne E. Thompson	: 37539525	: Pvt. lcl	: GO 8, Hq. 899th TD Bn., 1 May 45
Alexander V. Martinez	: 39855610	: Pvt. lcl	: GO 8, Hq. 899th TD Bn., 1 May 45
Verne A. Beckstrom	: 37170159	: Pvt. lcl	: GO 8, Hq. 899th TD Bn., 1 May 45
Ernest (NMI) Sauro	: 33277625	: Tec. 5.	: GO 8, Hq. 899th TD Bn., 1 May 45
Milton H. Slearing	: 38177129	: Tec. 5.	: GO 8, Hq. 899th TD Bn., 1 May 45

For the Battalion Commander:



OTTO J. GREGOIRE,
WOJG USA
Personnel Officer.

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899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
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By Authority of
Sdmg. Gen. 9th Inf. Div.
Date _____
Initials 31 May 1945.

SECTION VI - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

ANNEX II - S-2 Report of Operations for Month of April 1945.

The beginning of the month found the 9th Division attacking west vicinity Winterberg (G5588) assisting in the liquidation of the Ruhr Pocket. The 899th TD Bn., attached, continued its close support and TD protection of the Division.

During the period 1st to 11th April various Battle Groups, Flak units, battered divisions and Volksturm units were encountered with the principle opposition coming from the 130th Pz Lehr Div, 338th Inf Div, 176th Inf Div, 3rd Pz Gr Div, 106th Pz Brigade, 654th Assault Gun (Jadgpanther) Bn, and elements of 11 Pz Div, 116th Pz Div, 5th Para Div, 26th Inf Div, 326th Inf Div and 340th Inf Div.

During the first part of this period the enemy was concerned with breakout attempts and used his armored elements in groups of 5 to 6 in close support of infantry. Enemy activity was characterized by strong delaying action followed by sharp counter-attacks of Battalion strength supported by numerous tanks and SP guns with moderate artillery fire. After 7th April the enemy abandoned his breakout attempts and concentrated his efforts in delaying actions shifting the bulk of his forces to the north of the Division sector.

From 12 to 22 April the Division was engaged in the Harz Mountains, mopping up the southern tip of the mountains. Enemy resistance varied from very light to fanatical. The remnants of the battered divisions which escaped the Ruhr Pocket, Flak Units, Rear Echelon Units, SS, Hitler Jugend and Volksturm Units formed the principle opposition. Formed into various small Battle Groups the enemy fought a delaying action throughout the period. Between 4 - 8 tanks and SP guns were used opposite the Div during the period fighting a very poor delaying action.

Following the liquidation of the Harz Mountains Pocket the Div took up defensive positions along the Elbe and Mulde Rivers with no enemy armor immediately opposite the Div. Contact patrols with the Russians became engaged with German armored units opposite the Russians.

Enemy Materiel Destroyed for the month of April:

- 3 Halftracks.
- 22 GP Vehicles.
- 1 Mk IV tank.
- 2 Mk V Jadgpanthers.

- 1 Mk V tank.
- 1 Mk IV found abandoned was destroyed by demolitions.
- 2 Mk IV Assault Guns.
- 624 PW's.

For the Battalion Commander:



Jack K. Van Nest
JACK K. VAN NEST,
1st Lt., 899th TD Bn.,
S-2.

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*Per J E Pitts, AGRK
10 Dec 57*

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HEADQUARTERS
899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

By Authority of
Comdg. Gen. 9th Inf. Div.

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3 May 1945.

SECTION VI - Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

ANNEX III - Lessons Learned.

The tactical Employment of a Recon Platoon with a TD Company (SP)
Submitted by Capt. Robert W. Young CO Co. A, 899th TD Bn.

Within this Battalion, TD Gun Companies (with one Recon Platoon attached) are usually placed in direct support of each Infantry Regiment. Platoons, in turn, are placed in direct support of each Infantry Battalion under a coordinated plan for the tactical employment of the company as a whole. As such the attached Recon Platoon from the organic Recon Company of the TD Battalion, has almost an impossible assignment of providing battlefield reconnaissance for three TD Platoons over widely separated areas. To operate the Recon Platoon as a Platoon or even by section would mean that at least one TD Platoon would be without the benefit of a reconnaissance agency.

To supply the reconnaissance requirements of each TD Platoon and that of the Company, we have arrived at the following solution for the employment of the Recon Platoon attached to the TD Company:

The Recon Platoon consists of 2 M-8's, Car Arm'd Light and 4 Jeeps. One Recon Jeep is attached to each TD Platoon and is available to the Platoon Leader for any or all of the following: Liaison with the supported Infantry Battalion; position and route reconnaissance; assisting in maintaining contact with the forward Infantry elements and be well informed on the local and immediate flank situation; the operation of Platoon OP's; and in the event sections are operating separately, to maintain communication and contact between sections; in event of an emergency actually employ a section or separate gun under the direction of the TD Platoon Leader.

The remaining Jeep and 2-M-8's of the Recon Platoon with the Recon Platoon Leader remain with the TD Company and are available to the Company Commander for liaison between platoons and adjacent units; route and position reconnaissance; flank reconnaissance and security; operation of Company OP's; coordination of TD employment with adjacent TD units; and the selection of routes and positions in adjacent regimental sectors.

Each of the Recon Platoon vehicles are equipped with SCR 610 or 608 radios, tuned to the TD Company and Recon Company frequencies; thus enabling the Recon Platoon vehicles to work closer with the TD Platoons and Company, and providing an additional net for communications within the TD Company.

For the Battalion Commander:



Harley N. Miller
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Per J. E. Pille, AFK
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