

AUTH: CG 75th INF DIV
INIT: *[Signature]*
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HEADQUARTERS
772d Tank Destroyer Battalion

APO 339, U.S. Army
1 May 1945

Subject: After Action Report.

To : The Adjutant General, The Pentagon, Washington, 25, D.C.

Through: Commanding General, 75th Infantry Division, APO 451, U.S. Army.

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1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, and Memorandum No. 82, Headquarters Ninth United States Army, dated 27 February 1945, the following after action report for the month of April 1945 is submitted:

- a. Original Unit - No Change.
- b. Changes in Organization -
 - 1 - 30 Apr 45 - 75th Inf Division
 - 1 - 30 Apr 45 - XVI Corps
 - 1 - 30 Apr 45 - Ninth U.S. Army
- c. Strength 1 Apr 45 - 29 Off, 2 WO, 611 EM
Strength 30 Apr 45 - 30 Off, 1 WO, 616 EM
Net Increase - 1 Off. Net Decrease - 1 WO, 25 EM.
- d. Stations - 1 Apr 45 - Departed from area one (1) mile north of ZWICKEL, GERMANY and arrived at DREWER-NORD, GERMANY.
3 Apr 45 - Departed DREWER-NORD, GERMANY and arrived at MENGEDE, GERMANY
15 Apr 45 - Departed MENGEDE, GERMANY and arrived at BRAMBAUER, GERMANY
22 Apr 45 - Departed BRAMBAUER, GERMANY and arrived at WARBURG, GERMANY.
25 Apr 45 - Departed WARBURG, GERMANY and arrived at HERSCHLID, GERMANY.
- e. Battles - (See Narrative Report, Incl 1).
- f. Losses in Action -
 - o Apr 45 - Sgt Murl S. Roush, 6 822 321, Co B, killed in action near HERRICHENBURG, GERMANY when hit in head by sniper.

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f. Losses in Action (Contd)

6 Apr 45 - Sgt Donald J. Barna, 17 043 793, Cpl Martin W. Sawatsky, 37 021 493, Tec 5 Lloyd G. Gray, 20 643 011, Pfc Donald G. Fisher, 17 043 782, Pfc Clifford A. Flanagan, 36 038 018, Co. C, all killed in action 1000 yards southwest of OSTRICH, GERMANY when M-36 tank destroyer was hit by a high velocity shell.

7 Apr 45 - 1st Lt ALAN L. SCREINSON, 01 825 379, and Sgt John Turasek, 36 117 640, Co. B, both killed in action vicinity ICKEN, GERMANY when hit by enemy shell fragments.

8 Apr 45 - S/Sgt Frank J. Foley, 20 643 066, Co A, killed in action near BOVINGHAUSEN, GERMANY by concussion from 80mm shell. Pfc Walter A. Dunn, Jr., 35 553 270, Co A, killed in action near BOVINGHAUSEN, GERMANY due to enemy artillery fire.

9 Apr 45 - S/Sgt John E. Scally, 6 535 396, Co B, died of wounds received as a result of enemy artillery fire near SCHLIEFENBERG, GERMANY.

g. Casualties

2 Apr 45 - Pfc Maximilian A. Dobis, 37 164 478, Co A.

6 Apr 45 - 1st Lt RYAN B. MOORE, 01 169 258, Co B.
Cpl Cecil L. Bledsoe, 20 927 466, Co A.
1st Lt RALPH O. SMITH, 01 825 378, Co G.
Sgt Joseph R. Stark, 20 641 306, Co B.
Pfc Andy J. Spolar, 37 115 577, Co C.
Pfc Herbert H. Stage, 37 022 989, Co C.

7 Apr 45 - 1st Sgt George M. Ratterman, 35 807 787, Co B.
Sgt Arthur M. Dahms, 36 008 733, Co B.
Cpl Charles W. Hines, 37 148 278, Co B.
Tec 5 William C. Wendt, 37 164 541, Co B.
Pfc Glenn W. Steeg, 37 144 446, Co B.
Pfc Arthur J. Leveu, 37 164 362, Co B.
Pfc Elmer G. Ketz, 20 641 262, Co B.
Sgt Edward D. Costello, 35 058 101, Co B.
Sgt Gelsomino J. Maratea, 36 009 038, Co B.
Pfc Emory R. Shifflett, 33 629 166, Co B.
Pfc Merle L. Vroman, 20 637 548, Co B.

8 Apr 45 - Tec 5 John L. Tarchini, 31 281 368, Res Co.
Pfc Jack R. Sweeney, 20 641 308, Co B.
Sgt Chester L. Kozlowski, 20 641 593, Co C.

10 Apr 45 - Pfc Primitivo Gonzales, 35 140 442, Co A.



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g. Casualties (Contd)

- 13 Apr 45 - Sgt Edward L. Hillman, 37 115 568, Co C.
Cpl Palmer L. Pinta, 37 115 653, Co C.

h. Awards and Decorations -

- 4 April 45 - 1st Lt RALPH O. SMITH, O1 825 378, Co C, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 24 December 1944 to 23 March 1945 in Belgium, France, Holland and Germany.
- 27 April 45 - Sgt Clyde R. Williams, 37 298 610, Co C, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 11 April 1945, in Germany.
- 27 April 45 - Tec 5 Jack E. Becht, 16 085 552, Co C, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 11 April 1945, in Germany.
- 27 April 45 - Pfc Walter A. Egan, 35 058 079, Co C, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 11 April 1945, in Germany.
- 28 April 45 - Sgt Clayton V. Murray, 20 043 680, Co A, awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 10 April 1945, in Germany.
- 28 April 45 - 1st Lt THEODORE T. DUFFIELD, O1 825 101, Co A, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 4 April 1945, in Germany.
- 28 April 45 - 1st Lt KENNETH V. MEIGS, O1 821 011, Hon Co, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 4 April 1945, in Germany.
- 28 April 45 - Sgt Harold A. Wilgus, 35 728 962, Co A, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 2 April 1945, in Germany.

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1. Roster of Key Officers -

Lt Colonel	HARRY W. McCLELLAN	022 173	Commanding Officer
Major	JAMES K. CHENAULT	0 391 427	Executive Officer
Major	JOHN D. SPAULDING	0 390 152	S-3
Captain	WILLIAM A. BICKEL	0 422 633	S-2
Captain	JEROME F. RYAN	01 822 732	S-4
1st Lt	ROBERT W. MERRYMAN	0 444 760	S-1
Captain	RICHARD W. SIERK	0 422 051	CO, Headquarters Company
Captain	MARION L. COMPTON	0 395 862	CO, Reconnaissance Company
Captain	DAVID G. BARNETT	01 168 161	CO, Co A
Captain	SAMUEL F. FOSTER	01 169 961	CO, Co B
1st Lt	ROBERT G. McDONALD	01 168 368	CO, Co C
Captain	LOUIS H. CRIPPIN	0 355 605	CO, Medical Detachment

HARRY W. McCLELLAN
Lt. Colonel, INF
Commanding

- 5 Incls:
Incl 1 - After Action Report - Narrative
Incl 2 - Intelligence Report
Incl 3 - Report of Supplies
Incl 4 - Unit Journal
Incl 5 - Unit Reports No 79-108 Incl.

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AFTER ACTION REPORT - NARRATIVE

1 - 30 Apr 45

The 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) remained attached to the 75th Infantry Division during the month of April 1945.

During the period 1-14 April 1945 Headquarters Company was attached to Division Artillery; Company A attached to RCT 289; Company B attached to RCT 291; and Company C to RCT 290. Reconnaissance Company was under battalion control and in support of the firing companies. The battalion continued in close support of the three RCT's, moving in an easterly direction from ZWICKEL, GERMANY, crossing the Zweig Canal, and reached DATTELN, GERMANY on 4 April 1945. Then the attack turned south and on 13 April 1945 the battalion reached the Ruhr River in the general vicinity of WITTEN, GERMANY. Enemy resistance encountered was light to heavy during this attack. On 4 April 1945 the Pioneer Platoon of Reconnaissance Company prepared the first crossing of the Zweig Canal which could be used by armor. This enabled the 1st and 2d Platoons of Company A to cross the canal and continue the attack.

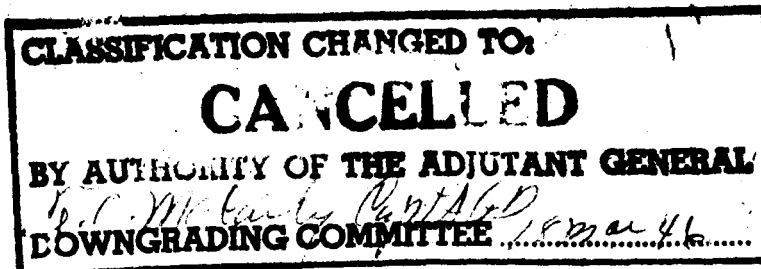
On 6 April 1945 one M-36 tank destroyer was disabled by an enemy basecra team. Two tank destroyers were lost when hit by flanking fire from a high velocity enemy gun. The destroyers burned causing the ammunition to explode. One tank destroyer crew (5 enlisted men) met death as a result of this action. Many houses and other suspected OP locations, sniper posts, enemy trucks, machine gun nests, anti-tank guns, and enemy foot troops were fired upon and destroyed.

From 15-21 April the battalion was assembled in BRANBAUER, GERMANY and engaged in first echelon maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

On 25 April the battalion moved to vicinity of HERSCHELD, GERMANY and for the balance of the month occupied its assigned area exercising military government duties and security measures.

Three (3) reinforcements (Officers) were received during this period.

A total of ninety (90) prisoners were captured during the month of April.





INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Enemy resistance during the period was considered moderate. The period being spent cleaning out portion of the Ruhr Pocket in the vicinity east of DORTMUND. Contact was made by Reconnaissance elements on the morning of 2 April 1945. The opposing elements appeared to be portions of the 2d Parachute Division, however we were faced with the 100th Infantry Division and 190th Infantry Division also. Towards the end of resistance the order of battle had been badly broken up, so that only parts of units were identified, caused by two or more elements joining together forming one unit. This unit broke contact with the enemy south of DORTMUND on the 14th of April 1945.

The battalion then took up its present mission of occupation and military government. Prisoners of War are now being gathered up that were left behind due to the rapid advance of our armies. The total number of Prisoners of War for this period is 178. All males within military age are being screened, and security measures are being set up for this area.



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REPORT OF SUPPLY - MONTH OF APRIL

Supply in general was very satisfactory, however an acute shortage of maintenance parts for the M-36 tank destroyer was experienced. The on vehicular ~~and~~ organizational spare parts were not available upon issue of the M-36 tank destroyers. Throughout the month such parts as fan belts, etc. caused the vehicles to be deadlined. Parts were not available from the supporting Ordnances. The on vehicular spare parts plus the organizational spare parts for the M-36 tank destroyer are still short in this organization.