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HEADQUARTERS  
802d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 339, U. S. ARMY

S E C R E T

AUTH: CG, NINTH US ARMY  
INIT: *JHM*  
DATE: 1 May 1945

AG 314.73

SUBJECT: Reports After/After Action Reports, for this Command, Covering  
Period 1-30 April 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington (25), D. C., (Thru Channels).

Forwarded herewith, action against enemy, reports after/after action  
reports, for this command, covering period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945  
inclusive.

*John H. Montgomery Jr.*  
JOHN H. MONTGOMERY JR.,  
LT. COLONEL, INFANTRY,  
Commanding.

9

Incls: 5

- Incl 1: Appendix No. 1 to action  
against enemy, reports after/  
after action report.
- Incl 2: S-1 Journal File
- Incl 3: S-2 Journal File
- Incl 4: S-3 Journal File
- Incl 5: S-1, S-2, S-3 Journal

4807

CLASSIFICATION  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*William D Tap 1st Lt Mal*  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 15 FEB 46

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**Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report,  
Headquarters, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion.**

**Period -- 1-30 April 1945.**

1. Original unit: 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Self-propelled).
2. Changes in organization: None
3. Strength:
  - a. 1 April 1945 -- 37 officers, 2 warrant officers, 626 enlisted men.
  - b. 30 April 1945 - 37 officers, 2 warrant officers, 617 enlisted men.
  - c. net change: 9 enlisted men lost
4. Station: (See narrative report).
5. Marches: (See narrative report).
6. Campaigns: (Operations for period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945)
7. Battles: Participated in the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket.
8. Commanding Officers:
  - a. Battalion Commander - Lt Col John H. Montgomery, Jr., O-20764  
Headquarters Company - Captain Charles G. Wagner, O-1168123  
Reconnaissance Company - 1st Lt Daniel C. Mooney, O-1822603  
Company "A" - 1st Lt Frederic G. Miller, O-1822169  
Company "B" - Captain William R. Kessler, O-410053  
Company "C" - Captain James J. Boyle, O-1821967  
Medical Detachment - Captain Samuel M. Pesneck, O-492568
  - b. 1st Lt Frederic G. Miller assumed command of Company "A" per Par 5, SO 71, this headquarters, dtd 23 April 1945 vice Captain Jean M. Varda, O-413637, rel'd of command and asgd to Bn HQ as Bn S-2.
9. Losses in action: (Battle casualties)
  - a. Officers:  
1st Lt. Lee A. Kincaid, O-1824197, Ren Co, IMA on 11 April 1945
  - b. Enlisted Men:  
Sergeant Harry NMI Limner, 20254521, Co "A", SWA on 5 April 1945.  
Pfc Richard F. Downes, 32088383, Ren Co, IMA on 6 April 1945.  
Sgt Nicholas NMI Norma, 32322277, Co "C", SWA on 5 April 1945.  
Cpl Felix O. Wood, 35681261, IMA on 7 April 1945, Co "B".  
Pvt Jack NMI Calhoun, 35146895, Co "B", KIA on 9 April 1945.  
Cpl Nathan NMI Ginsberg, 33198262, Co "B", IMA on 9 April 1945  
Tec 5 Luis E. Martinez, 38348285, Co "C", SWA on 12 April 1945  
Cpl Charles L. Peschel, 11138037, Co "C", IMA on 12 April 1945  
Sgt William R. Gargiule, 20254671, Co "C", LIA on 13 April 1945  
Pvt Ky W. Andrews, 36648710, Ren Co, DOW on 13 April 1945.

10. Awards:

Private Daniel T. Tigner, 33214011, Ren Co, awarded the Bronze Star per GO 34, Hq VIII Corps dtd 6 March 1945

The following named four (4) officers and ten (10) enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Star per GO 79, Hq 95th Infantry Division dtd 8 April 1945:

1st Lt Robert D. Hewlett, O-1822144, Co "A"  
1st Lt Charles A. Johnstone, O-1821875, Co "C"  
1st Lt Clifton C. Putnam, O-1822622, Co "A"  
2d Lt (then S/Sgt) James J. Coniglio, O-2011001, Co "A"  
Sgt Arthur J. Henehan, 20254402, Co "A"  
Sgt Richard T. Michael, 33227662, Co "B"  
Tec 4 Eugene NMI Chadwell, 33213859, Co "C"  
Tec 4 Charles D. Stafford, 33377360, Co "A"  
Cpl Earnest F. Byars, 18171688, Co "A"  
Cpl Ruffin E. Dupre, 38375804, Co "B"  
Cpl Joseph A. Iacangelo, 33198159, Co "A"  
Pfc Edgar NMI Firestone, 38293300, Co "B"  
Pfc Clifton B. Jackson, 33389976, Co "A"  
Pfc Joseph R. Steinmetz, 36770712, Co "B"

The following named seven (7) enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Star per GO 70, Hq 95th Infantry Division dtd 29 March 1945:

1st Sgt Thomas W. Mc Cutchan, 20254568, Ren Co  
T/Sgt Francis E. Stone, 31069932, Co "C"  
T/Sgt Alfred NMI Williams, 20254425, Co "A"  
Sgt Claude O. Bushy, 32088403, Co "B"  
Sgt Harold W. Murray, 20254677, Co "B"  
Tec 4 Charles W. Van Winckle, 32115819, Co "B"  
Tec 5 William E. Hipper, 33213924, Co "B"

11. Photographs: None

SUMMARY:

a. The Battalion continued its attachment to the 95th Infantry Division, XVI Corps, Ninth United States Army. On 2 April 1945 at 0050 hours this Battalion, minus Company "A" and Second Ren Platoon, crossed the Rhine River at Wessel, Germany.

Company "A" with Second Ren Platoon continued operations with the Second Armored Division Task Force "Zion" for operations east of the Rhine River. Their initial crossing of the river was made on 28 March 1945 at 0737 hours. This phase of action consisted chiefly of tactical marches and the occupation of towns in route. Enemy resistance was not very strong although the enemy did harass by occasional strafing and artillery fire. On 3 April 1945 at 1800 hours, the attachment of Company "A" and the Second Ren Platoon was terminated.

During the period 3 April 1945 to 13 April 1945 this Battalion was given the mission of providing close support to the 95th Infantry Division. The Division mission being reducing and cleaning out the Ruhr Pocket. During this action the Battalion was credited with the destruction of enemy tanks and material and assistance in the capture of Soest, Hamm, Worl, Kamen, and Dortmund. The drive to clear up the pocket terminated at the Dortmund-Ems Canal.

From 16 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 the Battalion was given the mission of establishing and maintaining Military Government in areas of the Ruhr Pocket. From 16 April 1945 to 23 April 1945 the Battalion Area was bounded on the North-west by Ra 965570, on the North-east by Rb 185519, on the South-east by Rb 170440, and on the South-west by Ra 920400 which included the towns of Ahlen, Werne, Beekum, Heesen, and Delburg.

From 24 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 the Battalion controlled an area bounded on the NW by Rb 555277, on the NE by Rb 575301, on the East by Rb 848141, on the SW by Rb 605000. This area included the towns of Medfeld, Bredelar, Heppecke, Nieder-Marsberg, and Furstenberg.

In these areas law and order was enforced. All aspects of Military Government were studied and appropriate actions were taken to insure the strict compliance of all Directives, Memorandums, War Department Circulars etc. pertaining to Military Government.

The transition from a combat unit to a Military Government Organization was accomplished in a minimum time. All members of this Battalion entered upon this new phase with all the energy and enthusiasm that has characterized its actions in all operations to date.

b. Combat efficiency -Morale -- Excellent  
Battalion at full combat strength.

c. Enemy material destroyed: 3 Mark III Tanks, 3 SP Guns, 5 Miscellaneous vehicles, 2 Anti-tank Guns, 3 Artillery Guns, 7 Machine Guns, 3 Anti-aircraft Guns, 1 water tower, 4 observation posts.  
Prisoners of War: 2 Officers and 204 Enlisted Men.

d. Recommendations: None

12. Battlefield Appointments:

Staff Sergeant James J. Coniglio, 20254371, Company "A", was appointed 2d Lieutenant, AUS, PA(ID), per Messageform 210.1 Headquarters Ninth United States Army, dated 26 April 1945.