

HEAD-QUARTERS
802d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO #339
U. S. Army

S E C R E T

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

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AG 314.73

SUBJECT: Reports After/After Action Reports, for this Command, Covering
Period 1-31 March 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 March 1945 to 31 March 1945
inclusive.

H. H. Montgomery
JOHN H. MONTGOMERY JR.
Lt Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

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

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

Period -- 1 - 31 March 1945.

1. Original unit: 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed). This Battalion re-designated and reorganized under T/O 18-25, 15 March 1944, per Section I, GO #57, Headquarters, Ninth U. S. Army, dated 28 February 1945. Reorganization and redesignation effective as of 1 March 1945.
2. Changes in organization: M36 Tank Destroyers substituted for M5 3" towed gun.
3. Strength:
 - a. 1 March 1945 -- 33 officers, 2 warrant officers, 681 enlisted men.
 - b. 31 March 1945 -- 37 officers, 2 warrant officers, 624 enlisted men.
 - c. Net change: -- 4 officers gained, 57 enlisted men lost.
4. Station: (See narrative report)
5. Marches: (See narrative report)
6. Campaigns: (Operations for period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945)
7. Battles: (Not classified)
8. Commanding Officers:
 - a. Battalion Commander - Lt Col John H. Montgomery, Jr, O-20754
Headquarters Company - Captain Charles G. Wagner, O-1168123
Reconnaissance Company - 1st Lt Daniel C. Mooney, O-1822603
Company "A" - Captain Jean M. Varda, O-413637
Company "B" - Captain William R. Kessler, O-410053
Company "C" - Captain James J. Boyle, O-1821967
Medical Detachment - Captain Samuel M. Posnock, O-492568
 - b. 1st Lt Daniel C. Mooney assumed command of Reconnaissance Company per paragraph 1, SO 35, Headquarters, 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion, dated 3 March 1945, as of 1 March 1945.
9. Losses in action: (Battle casualties)
 - a. Officers: None.
 - b. Enlisted Men:
Private Joseph NMI Herzberg, 42137343, Rcn Co, KIA, on 3 March 1945.
Private Herbert L. Isaac, 12232419, Rcn Co, LWA, on 3 March 1945.
Corporal Elesta Bonaker, 33213932, Co C, LWA, on 9 March 1945

10. Awards: Sergeant Wayne E. Snyder, 32047369, Company A, awarded the Croix de Guerre on 5 March 1945, per Decision No. 332, dated 25 January 1945, Le General de Gaulle President du GPRF.

Teo 5 James D. Demarest, 20254242, Medical Detachment, awarded the Croix de Guerre on 5 March 1945, per Decision No. 332, dated 25 January 1945, Le General de Gaulle President du GPRF.

11. Photographs: None.

SUMMARY:

a. The Battalion attached to the 95th Infantry Division, Ninth U. S. Army, proceeded from Belgium to Germany to continue operations commencing on the Roer River extending to the Rhine River and subsequently to the Ruhr industrial centers.

From 1 March to 5 March 1945, Company A and Company C, plus the 1st Reconnaissance Platoon, were attached to the 377, 378, and 379 infantry regiments and participated actively in close support of the regiments in operations terminating at the Rhine River. During this period the companies concerned delivered direct fire on numerous targets on the east side of the Rhine River (see narrative report). At this time Company A was equipped with M36, 90mm tank destroyers and Company C was equipped with 3" towed guns.

On 6 March 1945, Company B, attached to the 920th Field Artillery Battalion and the 358th Field Artillery Battalion were engaged in conducting interdiction and harrassing fire across the Rhine River.

On 11 March 1945, Company C in support of the 379th Infantry Regiment, proceeded to Heuss, Germany where direct fire positions were prepared during the hours of darkness.

On 27 March 1945, Company A plus the Second Platoon of Reconnaissance Company, proceeded to an assembly area in Munchen-Gladbach, Germany for attachment to the 377th Infantry Regiment (CT7). The company crossed the Rhine River at 0730 on 28 March 1945 and continued operations in the drive on the east side of the Rhine. The first and third platoons of Reconnaissance Company and Headquarters Company remained in assembly areas.

During the entire month the battalion was in the process of reorganizing from tank destroyer, towed 3" guns to self-propelled M36 90mm destroyers. Training in mechanical operations and tactical employment of the destroyers was conducted by all companies while in assembly areas when not on a tactical mission. In conjunction a programme of maintenance and rehabilitation was also pursued. By the end of the month the battalion was fully equipped with destroyers and accessories.

b. Combat efficiency - Morale--excellent.

c. Enemy material destroyed -- 4 oil tanks, 6 railroad oil tanks, 4 river barges, 2 boat houses, 6 machine gun nests, 1 block house, 5 observation posts, and 2 light vehicles.

d. Recommendations: None.

12. Battlefield Appointments: Staff Sergeant John P. Gilday, 20254682, Company C, and Staff Sergeant William K. Wood, 33378388, Reconnaissance Company, were appointed 2d Lieutenants, AUS, per paragraph 1, Special Orders 74, Headquarters, Ninth U. S. Army, dated 15 March 1945.