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HEADQUARTERS
803D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. Army

AFTER ACTION REPORT

No. 4

From: 010001B, September, 1944.
To : 302400A, September, 1944.

Unit: 803rd T. D. Bn.
Date: 4 October, 1944.
Place: Molsberg, Holland.
(K769507)

MAPS: Aachen and Sittard Sheets No. 59 & 48 - 1:50,000.

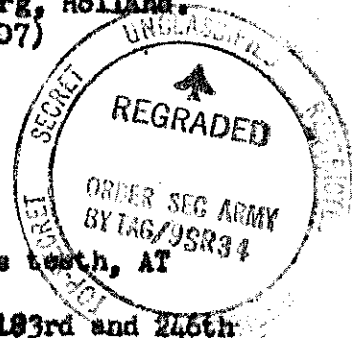
I. ENEMY.

1. Enemy Situation at End of Period.

- a. Siegfried Line.
- b. Pre-arranged defense positions, pillboxes, dragons teeth, AT ditches, AT walls, and dug-in machine guns.
- c. At close of period, elements of the 176th, 49th, 103rd and 246th Infantry Divisions were in contact this sector. Majority troops, these Divisions are poorly trained, discharged from hospitals, freshly released from civilian occupation, and here to for considered overage
- d. During last half of period, 3 light artillery battalions, 1 medium battalion, 1 battery of 210mm were active in division sector.
- e. Reserves - 116th, 9th and 12th Pz divisions are considered to be behind Siegfried Line, to repel any break throughs. Elements of Infantry Divisions (see c. above) were in immediate reserve, and while all units of these divisions had not been located, they must be considered as a potential threat.
- f. Supply and evacuation problems are causing the enemy less trouble, as his lines are shortened, and he has had time to prepare dumps and supply points.

2. Enemy Operations.

- a. During first half of period, enemy concentrated on withdrawing within his own boundaries, and to prepared positions in Siegfried Line. During last half, positions in line, and behind were manned and strengthened.
- b. Artillery was not extensively used during early part of period but medium and heavy artillery fire was heavy from positions in line. It is believed that railroad and roving guns were used.
 - (2) Two (2) artillery observation planes were reported in this sector, and an occasional one (1) or two (2) reconnaissance planes in this area. In one case, a few bombs were dropped.
 - (3) Infantry elements strengthened their positions and sent out constant patrols, as a counter reconnaissance screen.
 - (4) Tanks were not active during the period, in this sector.



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e. During first half of period, enemy set up straggler collection points, on lines of communication, to gather up disorganized elements and feed them back into line divisions, or organized gruppes, or combat teams.

3. Miscellaneous.

- a. During period, this unit captured forty-four (44) PW's.
- b. Morale of PW's taken was generally low. Majority were either taken when discharged from hospitals, or were men usually considered over-age.
- c. The enemy abandoned considerable equipment while withdrawing, but after crossing Wurm river, situation become static in this sector. Supply was undoubtedly much easier after entering his prepared positions.
- d. Terrain to our East is generally rolling country, a large part of which is wooded.
- e. Enemy agents have been reported within our lines, and there are known enemy sympathizers in this district. In spite of careful security measures, the enemy is certain to have a complete picture of our situation.
- f. A large part of period was overcast and unfit for air operations. During last week of period, rain softened ground to a point where vehicular operation was difficult.

4. Enemy Capabilities.

- a. Can defend Siegfried Line, and prepared defenses between there, and the Rhine to the last man.
- b. Can delay on line, while positions are prepared to the East of the Rhine.

II. OWN SITUATION.

1. a. Front Line: See attached situation overlay.
- b. Location of Troops: See attached situation overlay.
- c. Adjacent Units: See attached situation overlay.
- d. During month this unit was employed on missions of flank protection of XIX Corps. Direct support of Infantry, targets of opportunity and indirect fire missions.
- e. Combat efficiency of this unit is excellent. Negligable casualties during month. All key personnel casualties have been successfully replaced.
- f. Results of operations.
 - (1) The entire Corps front during last three weeks of period was at a stalemate. Due to the fact a huge amount of men and supplies will be needed to crack the Siegfried defenses.
 - (2) Enemy equipment destroyed by this unit during month is as follows: One (1) Mark V tank; four (4) 20mm guns; one (1) artillery piece; two (2) machine guns; eight (8) enemy OP's and approximately one hundred (100) enemy personnel killed.



III. ADMINISTRATIVE.

1. a. The effective strength of this battalion as of 30 September, 1944, is thirty-eight (38) officers, one (1) Warrant Officer and five hundred ninety-six (596) enlisted men.

Letter 320 (c), subject, Reorganization dated 16 September, 1944, First United States Army, authorizes this unit to re-organize under T/O and E 18-26, dated 15 March, 1944, with authorized strength of thirty-five (35) officers, two (2) warrant officers and six hundred six (606) enlisted men changed to thirty-five (35) officers, two (2) warrant officers and six hundred seven (607) enlisted men by letter 320 (c), subject, Reorganization dated 28 September, 1944. Requisition for difference in strength of enlisted men has been delayed in order to procure battle casualties previously assigned this organization. Warrant officer vacancy is to be filled by eligible man who is to be picked by a board appointed by higher headquarters.

b. Casualties.


Killed - - - - -	1
Wounded - - - - -	139 098
Sick - - - - -	3
Captured - - - - -	0
Missing - - - - -	1

c. Prisoners captured - - - - - 44

d. Status of Supply.

- (1) Rations - Two (2) days reserve.
- (2) Ammunition - 3" inch - 2 units of fire.
37mm - 2 units of fire.
- (3) Gasoline - One (1) days supply at fifty (50) miles per day.
(Excluding vehicular tanks)
- (4) Diesel Fuel - One-half (1/2) days supply at fifty (50) miles per day. (Excluding vehicular tanks)

2. Class II Quartermaster supply critical during entire month. Class III supply critically short during several periods of the month.


 CHARLES W. GOODWIN,
 Lt. Col., 803rd T. D. Bn.,
 Commanding.

