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HEADQUARTERS
811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

6 April 1945


SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 March 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

THRU : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1 - 31 March 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:


CLEM J. HUX,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
RESTRICTED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
[Signature]
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 31 Aug. 1945

20 MAR 1945

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SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

From 0001 1 Mar 45 to 2400 31 Mar 45

Map Scale: 1/100,000

Sheets Number: R-2, R-3, S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, T1 - T2 - T3 - T-4, U1, U2 and U3.

1-5 Mar 45

At the beginning of period, the Battalion was attached to 80th Inf Div with one letter Company attached to each Infantry Regiment. Units were located as follows:

Bn CP - METTENDORF (P9950)
Rcn Co - BIEERSDORF (L0858)
Co A - OBERWEILER (L0761)
Co B - See below
Co C - WEIDINGEN (L0358)

On 1 March 1945 Company B plus one Reconnaissance platoon (with CT 318/80th Inf Div) moved from 80th Inf Div sector and occupied indirect fire positions in vicinity of IDESHEDM (L165425) located in 76th Inf Div sector. On 3 March 1945 they were relieved of this mission with 76th Inf Div. Company B plus Rcn platoon returned to 80th Inf Div zone with Company B occupying positions at (L115576). Rcn platoon reverted back to Company control. On 3 March 1945 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion (less Co B) was relieved from attachment 80th Inf Div and attached 4th Armd Div. Hq, Rcn and C (less 1 platoon) Companies attached CCB, 4th Armd Div, and Company A attached CCA, 4th Armd Div. One platoon, Company C, attached 25th Cavalry Squadron. The Battalion, less Company B and 1 platoon Company C, moved to assembly area 1/2 mile west of RITTERSDORF (L1156) on 4 March 1945 in anticipation of movement with 4th Armd Div; however, at 04 2200 March 1945 the Battalion (less Co B and 1 platoon Co C) relieved of attachment to 4th Armd Div and reattached to 80th Inf Div. One platoon Company C remained

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attached 25th Cavalry Squadron. During this five day period, the following towns in the Battalion's zone of advance were cleared of the enemy: OBERWEILER (L0761), EHLENZ (L0960), SCHLEID (L1163), MALBERG and BEIDENBACH.

5-11 March 1945

The 5th of March 1945 finds the Battalion in the following positions preparing to continue the attack east of KYLL RIVER in vicinity BITBURG (L1353):

Bn CP, Hq Co - RITTERSDORF (L1156)
Rcn Co - BIEERSDORF (L0858)
Co A - BITBURG (L1353)
Co B - (L11585)
Co C - BICKENDORF (L1160)

On 7 March 1945 Company C moved with 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, to 76th Inf Div sector. Company occupied position in vicinity IDENHEIM (L1645). On 9 March 1945 the Company was relieved from this assignment and returned to 80th Inf Div sector and occupied positions vicinity BICKENDORF (L115603). On 10 March 1945 the Battalion (less 2d platoon, Co C, which was still attached 25th Cavalry Squadron, 4th Armd Div) relieved from attachment 80th Inf Div and attached to 89th Inf Div. On 11 March 1945, the Battalion (less Hq Rear and 2d platoon, Co C) moved from 80th Inf Div sector to 89th Inf Div zone. Bn CP, Rcn and B Companies were located at GINDORF (L2257), Company C in OBERKAIL (L2460) and Co A in ONSFELD. In addition, the 2d platoon, Company C, which had been working with 25th Cavalry Squadron, 4th Armd Div, was relieved of this attachment and returned to Company control. Platoon moved to OBERKAIL (L2460). At 11 1445 March 1945 the Battalion was relieved of attachment 89th Inf Div, XII Corps, and attached to 80th Inf Div, XI Corps. Plans were made during the night to move to XX Corps sector in vicinity RALICH, LUXEMBOURG. From 5-12 March 1945, the Battalion was not in continuous contact with the enemy. At such times, the Battalion conducted maintenance of all vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel.

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12-15 March 1945

On the morning of 12 March 1945, the battalion made a road march from GINDORF (L2257) to vicinity REMICH, LUXEMBOURG, which was in the zone of 80th Inf Div, XX Corps. Upon arrival there, Hq, Rcn and B Companies occupied billets in ELLANGE (P9603), and Companies A and C in WELFRANGE (P9505). On 13 March 1945 the 80th Inf Div's SOP normal attachment of TD's to the infantry went into effect with Company A attached 317th Inf Regt; Company B attached 318th Inf Regt and Company C attached 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div. On 13 March 1945 Bn CP and Rcn Company moved from ELLANGE, LUXEMBOURG, to SAARBURG (L1412), GERMANY; Company A to (L2012); Company B to BEURIG (L1512); Company C to (L2011). On 14 March 1945 Hq Co (Rr) moved to BEURIG (L1512); Companies A, B, and C to (L2011), (L2512) and (L2012), respectively. On 15 March 1945 Company A fired on enemy tanks and pillboxes in vicinity (L2215).

15-18 March 1945

At 15 2130 March 1945 Rcn Company was attached 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div. Rcn was conducted along the regiment's front during the remainder of the period. Companies A, B, and C continued their advance in Division zone and on the 18th of March 1945 had reached the following points:

Company A - OBERTHAL (L5302); Company B - WEISKIRCHEN (L3407); Company C - THELEY (L4800). From 12 to 18 March 1945, the Battalion assisted in clearing the enemy from the following towns in its zone of advance: GREIMERATH (L2407), SCHEIDEN (L2705), BERGEN (L2404), WALDHOLZBACH (L2906), HAUSVACH (L2401), BRITTEN (L2303), LOSHEIM (L2801), WAHLEN (Q3099), MITLOSHEIM (L3004), RAPPWEILER (L3205), ZWALBACH (L3106), MICHELBAACH (Q3496), NUNKIRCHEN (Q3598), LOCKWEILER (L4103), KRETTNICH (L4203).

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19-25 March 1945

First five days of this period consisted almost in its entirety of sweeping advances against the enemy. Only token resistance was encountered by our units. Chief obstacles to our progress consisted mainly of roadblocks and some sniper fire. Battalion out of contact with enemy during last two days of period. On the 21st of March 1945 Reconnaissance Company was released from attachment 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, and returned to Battalion control. The Company was then assigned the following mission:

- a. Maintain contact with friendly armor in Division zone.
- b. Report front line dispositions won troops, and
- c. Investigate and report any hostile armor or AT.

On 22 March 1945 the latter Companies were released from attachment Infantry Regt and returned to Battalion control in vicinity FREIDELSHEDM, GERMANY. This was done in preparation for an expected order to move north and regroup. On 24 March 1945 the Battalion moved from FREIDELSHEDM (R3594) to WALDGRHWEILER (MOOLB) and GANGLOFF (L9718), where the Battalion went into Corps reserve. The 25th of March 1945 was spent on rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

26-31 March 1945

On 26 March 1945 the Battalion was alerted for movement further north in order to be nearer the crossing site on the RHINE RIVER. Accordingly, on 27 March 1945 the Battalion (Less Hq Rr) moved from Waldgrhweiler (MOOLB) and GANGLOFF (L9718) to the following locations:

Bn CP and Rcn Co - GAU ALGHESHEDM (M2051); Company A - NEIDER SAULHEIM (M3042); Company B - NDR INGELHEIM (M2453); Company C - Preparing to cross RHINE RIVER in vicinity MAINZ.

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During this period, swift progress was made against the enemy, with no organized enemy front lines encountered. By 30 March 1945 the entire Battalion had crossed the RHINE RIVER. From the 26th to 31st March 1945 Battalion CP moved a total of one hundred seventy-eight (178) miles. At close of period (31 2400 Mar 45), units were located as follows:

Bn CP, Med Det and Rec Co - NEUKIRCHEN (H1353); Hq Co (Rr) - RIEBELSDORF (H1155); Company A - ZIEGENHAIN (H0558); Company B - HOMBERG (H1772), and Company C at (H2260). The following enemy equipment and personnel were destroyed during the month of March 1945:

Tanks - - - - -	26	20mm Flak Guns - - - - -	4
Half Tracks - - - - -	3	2 1/2 Ton Trucks - - - - -	2
Scout-Cars - - - - -	1	Horses - - - - -	4
SP Guns - - - - -	2	Wagons - - - - -	3
Mortars - - - - -	1	Jeeps - - - - -	1
AT Guns - - - - -	4	PW's Captured - - - - -	552
Arty Pieces - - - - -	1	Approx Enemy Killed - - -	179
Pillboxes - - - - -	5	Approx Enemy Wounded - - -	265

Elaine C. Taylor
ELAINE C. TAYLOR,
Major, FA (ID),
S-3.

SECTION II

S-2 REPORT

From 0001 1 Mar 45 to 2400 31 Mar 45

Maps; Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS 4416.
Sheets Number: R-2, R-3, R-4, S1, S2, S3, S4, T1, T2, T3, T4, U1, U2
and U3.

Eastern France - 1/50,000, GSGS 4471.
Sheets Number: XXXIV, 10, 11; XXXV, 10, 11; XXXVI, 10, 11, XXXVII, 10,
11, XXXVIII, 10, 11.
GSGS 4505, Sheets Number 22, 41, 42, 61, 102, 103, 131,
132, 133, 161, 162, 163 and 192.

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the 80th Inf Div continued the attack through the German West Wall defenses. The enemy, according to reports, was maintaining a line on the east bank of the NIMS River. Light resistance was offered with small arms in HEILLENBACH (L0863), but the town was cleared with 63 PW's taken.

Large concentrations of heavy tanks and trucks were reported to be within a 2 mile radius at (L1973). This was believed to be a new division arriving, but an attack from them never materialized due to our air activity and swift ground advance by U. S. 4th Armd Div.

By 5 March the enemy line followed along the KYLL River. Units contacted were elements of 9th VG Div, 79th VG Div, 246th VG Div, and a March Battalion of 2d Pz Div. Four enemy tanks appeared north of MEISBURG (L2568) and nine Tiger Tanks of the 506th Tk Bn were reported at (L154724).

5-11 March 1945

Small groups of enemy infantry attempted to delay advance of forward elements in XII Corps sector. Only light and scattered resistance was encountered consisting of small arms and machine gun fire. On 5 March the 2d platoon of Company C, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was attached to 25th Cavalry, 4th Armd Div, and

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joined them at 0845 hours. They proceeded to KYLLBURGWELLER. They were relieved and reverted to Battalion control on 11 March 1945.

On 10 March the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment to 80th Inf Div and attached to 89th Inf Div.

On 11 March forward CP moved to GINDORF, GERMANY (L219575), and closed at 1035 hours. 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment to 89th Inf Div and attached to XX Corps.

12-17 March 1945

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion moved from GINDORF, GERMANY, to ELLANGE, LUXEMBOURG, (P9603) on 12 March 1945. Here the Battalion was reattached to 80th Inf Div, whose sector covered approximately 4,000 yards from (L1615) to south of SAARBURG, GERMANY, (L1511), extending east about 6,000 yards where it extended south to (L0025), the 26th Inf Div's boundary. The 94th Inf Div was located on the left flank.

Enemy units known to be on the 80th Inf Div's sector front were: (1) 136th Mtn Inf Regt, 137th Mtn Inf Regt, 111th Mtn Arty Regt, 67th Mtn Rcn Bn, 55th Mtn AT Bn, 67th Mtn Engr Bn, and 67th Mtn Sig Bn, all units of 2d Mtn Div. (2) 6th SS Mtn Div, composed of 11th SS Mtn Gren Regt "REINHARDT HEYDRICH", 12th SS Mtn Gren Regt "MICHAEL GAISMAR", 6th SS Mtn Arty Regt, 6th SS Mtn Rcn Bn, 506th SS Pz Gren Bn (atchd), 6th SS Mtn Engr Bn, and 6th SS Mtn Sig Bn.

On 13 March 1945 Bn Fwd CP moved from ELLANGE (P9603), LUXEMBOURG, to SAARBURG, (U1415) GERMANY. The enemy defended his positions stubbornly with assault guns, small arms fire, artillery, roadblocks, booby traps, and small scale counter attacks. Situation became fluid as the enemy defenses were penetrated. Forward CP located at FIRIEDLSHEIM, GERMANY (R3594).

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17-20 March 1945

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The enemy at this time had no established front lines to our knowledge, and the situation was fluid. Miscellaneous units were contacted by 80th Inf Div, mostly from 416th Inf Div, 2d Mtn Div, and 17th SS Pz Gren Div.

On 18 March scattered and indifferent resistance was met as our troops advanced rapidly to the east. Many towns were cleared in the Division zone. Use of roadblocks, mines and other defensive works seemed to decrease during this advance. Only small concentrations of artillery fire were received in towns, ALSWEILER (Q5197), NIEPEL (Q4098), and NIEDERKIRCHEN (Q6596).

The rapid advance met only a fleeing enemy. KLASSELAUTERN (R0293), all towns to the west and for 13 kilometers east in our zone was cleared of enemy by 20 March 1945. Our leading companies with 80th Inf Div reached HOCHSPEYER (L1193) and EAKENBACH.

20-26 March 1945

Contact with the enemy was lost on 21 March, but on 22 March approximately 500 PW's were taken by the Division. Increased enemy air activity was encountered during this period with columns south and west of MAXDORF (R4098) strafed and bombed during the hours of darkness. On 25 March contact with the enemy was again lost by our troops.

26-31 March 1945

Enemy front lines were along the east bank of the RHINE River on the 26th of March. Some of the islands in the River were also occupied. The town of MAINZ (M3754) received heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire during the early part of this period.

Capabilities of the enemy at this time were to defend along north bank of RHINE and MAIN Rivers with elements of the 198th VG Div and various battle groups comprised of administrative and VOLKSTURM. The resistance [REDACTED] of the

...river was at first stubborn, consisting of small arms, automatic weapons, and 20mm AA fire, however, as the attack continued the resistance became disorganized and ineffectual as large numbers of enemy surrendered in groups.

The River MAIN was crossed during the period. In most cases our forward elements were welcomed by civilian population who stated that they had been eagerly looking forward to Allied occupation.

At the end of the month the situation still remained fluid. Indications were, however, that the enemy would establish a MLR on the high ground northeast of the FULDA River between (H220905) GUXHAGEN and (H440550) KATHUS. The 326th VG Div together with 166th Div, 356th Inf Div, 1066th Arty Regt, and 5th Para Div will be used to man this line.

Our advance was slowed by blown bridges and other defensive works while fierce resistance from small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and direct fire weapons met our forces north of EDER River.

The Battalion forward CP was located at NEUKIRCHEN (H1353) at the close of the period.

KNOWN ENEMY EQUIPMENT
Destroyed by 811th TD Bn
Month of March

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Reg</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tanks, Mk V or VI or <u>II</u>			4	1	21	26
Half-Tracks					3	3
Arm'd Cars						
Scout Cars					1	1
SP Guns				1	1	2
Horses					4	4
Wagons			1		2	3
Jeeps			1			1
2 1/2 Ton Trucks					2	2

<u>Enemy Positions</u>	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mortar Positions					1	1
AT Guns					4	4
Artillery Positions					1	1
pillboxes			2		3	5
20mm Flak Guns					4	4
<u>Enemy Personnel</u>						
<u>Losses</u>						
Prisoners	37	69	52	25	369	552
Killed (Approx)			68	73	38	179
wounded (Approx)			97	98	70	265

Melvin J. Bryson
 MELVIN J. BRYSON,
 Captain, FA (TD)
 S-2.

SECTION III

S-4 REPORT

1-31 March 1945

1. The requirements of this organization were generally good for all classes of supply.

Class I

Modified "B" ration was available for approximately the first half of the month. The latter two weeks consisted of "10 in 1", and "C" rations.

Class II

Good.

Class III

The latter part of the month was one of continuous movement. In spite of the high requirements this Battalion never suffered seriously from lack of fuel and lubrications.

Class IV

Good.

Class V

Good.

2. The one serious handicap has been the almost non-existent ordnance support, especially with armored vehicles. The supporting units have been as far as 65 miles in rear of our rear most elements. As a result our maintenance continuously fell behind.

3. Road conditions have been excellent.

4. Vehicular Losses:

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	1	0	1
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun M18	0	0	1	3	0	4
Vehicle, Tank Recovery M32	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Vehicular Losses, cont'd)

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton 4x4	0	0	0	2	0	2
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/o w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	6	0	7

5. Vehicular Replacements:

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	1	0	1
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun, M18	0	0	0	2	0	2
Vehicle Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	1	1
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	0	0	0	2	0	2
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrier, Cargo, M29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/c w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	5	1	6

6. Ammunition Expended:

76mm, HE	- 332	37mm, APC	- 35
76mm, APC	- 66	37mm, Canister	- 7
Cal .50 MG	- 8,980	81mm, Mortar, HE	- 0
Cal .30 MG	- 9,775	Rocket, AT, M6A3	- 26
Cal .30 Rifle Ball	- 1,994	Grenade, AT	- 0
Cal .30 Rifle AP	- 1,620	Mine, AT, HE, M1A1	- 54
Cal .30 Carbine	- 3,050	Grenade, Hand, Frag	- 20
Cal .45 Ball	- 900	Grenade, Inc	- 2
37mm, HE	- 83	Grenade, WP, M15	- 2

Julius Troyer
JULIUS TROYER,
Captain, FA (TD),
S-4

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S-1 REPORT

SECTION IV

1 - 31 March 1945

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to
and including 31 March 1945 for the period
1 - 31 March 1945.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>

6 Mar 45			3			3

11 Mar 45			3	3		6
12 Mar 45	1					1
13 Mar 45	1		1			2
14 Mar 45	1			1		2
15 Mar 45	1		2			3
16 Mar 45			5			5

18 Mar 45					1	1

TABLE NUMBER 2.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>
2 Mar 45	2
3 Mar 45	24
5 Mar 45	2
15 Mar 45	1
20 Mar 45	5
28 Mar 45	<u>11</u>
Total	45

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TABLE NUMBER 3.


AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45, incl.

No.

— Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
— Distinguished Service Cross
1 Silver Star (Posthumously)
15 Silver Star
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
1 Bronze Star (Posthumously)
22 Bronze Star
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
— Air Medal
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
— Soldier's Medal
15 Purple Heart Award
3 (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
— (2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

On 31 March 1945 an enemy prison camp containing Allied personnel was liberated by the swift advance of the 6th Armd Div, and thirteen non-commissioned officers of this organization, who had been missing in action as a result of the battle of the Bulge in December 1944 were liberated. Commanding Officer, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, visited these men and verified their presence, and as a result of this personal visit the records of personnel listed as missing in action have been reduced by thirteen.


CLEM J. HUX,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.