

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
814th Tank Destroyer Battalion
APO 339



7 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Month of April 1945.

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

1. On 1 April 1945 the 814th TD Bn was attached to the 7th Armd Div. Bn Hq and Hq Company were located in an assembly area in the vicinity of Frankenau, Germany. A move was made on 4 April to Bromskirchen, Germany, closing at 1500 hours. The Bn coordinated the movement of Division Troops which consisted of the 33rd Armd Engr Bn (-) and the 203rd AAA Bn (-). The security of the town was carried out by Division Troops. In screening the town six PW's were taken.
2. On 9 April the Battalion moved to a new area in the vicinity of New Asterberg, Germany, closing in at 0815 hours. The next day a movement was made to Schmallenburg, Germany. The Bn Coordinated the movement of Div Troops to the vicinity of Fredeburg, Germany. Upon arrival in Schmallenburg, the Bn relieved the 87th Ron of responsibility of the town and placed guards on six German hospitals and coordinated the security of the town with Div Troops. Plans were made for civilian control, and 52 German soldiers were evacuated to the PWE. Responsibility for Schmallenburg was assumed by Div Trains commander at 1800 hours, but the Bn continued to furnish 2 roadblocks and guards.
3. On 12 April, the Bn (-) moved to the vicinity of Bremke, Germany, closing at 1445 hours. Around midnight on 13 April, an enemy halftrack was knocked out by the guard, but no personnel was taken. The Bn Hq and Hq Co on 17 April departed from the vicinity of Bremke for Wierhausen, Germany, closing there on 18 April at 0115 hours. The movement of Div Troops was coordinated by the Bn. Upon arrival the Bn conducted a screening of the town, picking up 2 PW's, and set up security patrols in the zone of Div Troops with the help of the 33rd Engr Bn (-) and the 203rd AAA Bn (-). While in this town the Bn performed maintenance of vehicles. Bn remained attached to the 7th Armd Div, which was released from attachment to V Corps and reverted to control of First US Army at 1200 hours on 22 April, remaining in SHAEF Reserve. At 1200 hours on 25 April 1945 814th TD Bn was attached to XVIII Corps (Abn) and was relieved of assignment to First US Army and assigned to Ninth US Army on 24 April 1945.

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4. Bn Hq and Hq Company moved to Eschede, Germany on 29 April, closing into the new area at 0045 hours the next day. The month ended with Bn Hq and Hq Company in this location, where they furnished security and road patrols in their assigned sector of the Division zone.

Reconnaissance Company

1. Recon Co (-) was located in an assembly area on 1 April in the vicinity of Frankenau, Germany. The 1st Plat was attached to Co B and the 2nd Plat to Co A, while the 3rd Plat remained with the Company. They captured 12 prisoners while here.

2. On 4 April the company moved to Bramskirchen, Germany with Bn (-). The 2nd Plat supporting Co A, captured 25 and killed or wounded an unestimated number of German infantry in the vicinity of Winterberg, Germany. On 5 April this platoon had three 1/4 ton vehicles slightly damaged by artillery fire and one enlisted man slightly wounded by small arms fire. Fifteen PW's were captured in the vicinity of Assinghausen, Germany. The first Plat on the following day aided in the capture of an unestimated number of PW's in Oberkirchen, Germany and were subjected to heavy mortar fire. Recon Co (-) provided local security for part of Bromskirchen while there.

3. Recon Co (-) moved to the vicinity of New Astenberg on 9 April and then to Schmalleburg, Germany the following day. During security operations in the town the Co took 6 PW's. On 12 April a move was made to the vicinity of Bremke, Germany, and during the day the 3rd Plat took 14 PW's in the vicinity of Grevenstein. The next day, the 1st Sec, 1st Plat established outpost in the vicinity of Nueenrade, Germany and received artillery fire, which resulted in 2 enlisted men being wounded. Heavy mortar fire in Garbeck damaged 1 M-8.

4. On 14 April the 3rd Plat replaced the 1st Plat at Co B and the latter returned to Recon Co control at 1500 hours. The 2nd Plat operated as liaison between OCA and elements of the 5th Inf Div. The next day brought the surrender of a German Repl Co and about 80 men to the 3rd Plat. The Co, on 17 April, made a movement to Wierhausen, Germany, arriving there at 0115 on the 18th. Recon Co furnished patrol for the town. While here a program for maintenance of vehicles was carried on.

5. The company departed from Wierhausen on 29 April and closed in Eschede, Germany on the 30th at 0045 hours. The company was carrying out security road patrols in the assigned sector of Div zone as the month closed.

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of April '45, cont'd)

Company A

1. On 1 April Co A was located in the vicinity of Ellershausen, Germany and attached to CCA, 7th Armd Div which continued on a 3 hour alert for employment by VII Corps. 1st Plat was attached to T/F Rhea and 2nd Plat to T/F Wemple, and 3rd Plat to T/F Daly. The Co was attached at 1800 hours on 2 April to VII Corps and further attached to 104th Inf Div. They left Ellershausen at 1945 hours and arrived at Medebach, Germany the next day at 0300 hours. Another move was made to Munden the same day. CCA was relieved of attachment to the 104th Inf Div and attached to the 9th Inf Div at 2400 hours on 4 April.

2. During the following 2 days the Co destroyed one AT gun and captured two 20mm guns. On 7 April the company was further attached to 47th Inf Regt, Co Hq. The 2nd Plat attached to C Troop 32nd Cav at 2200 on road block mission. The 3rd Plat attached to Co C, 17th Tk Bn. On 8 April the 1st Plat was located in Olsberg, 2nd Plat in the vicinity of Eversberg and the 3rd Plat in the vicinity of Whrstapel, Germany. The next day the Co was relieved of attachment from 9th Inf Div and reverted to control of CCA at 0800 hours. They moved from Olsberg to an assembly area in the vicinity of Gliedorf, Germany.

3. The Co, on 10 April, moved with CCA to vicinity of Arpe, Germany. The 3rd Plat with T/F Daly destroyed 1 GP Truck and trailer. On the following day a move was made to vicinity of Eslope with the 3rd Plat knocking out 1 cargo truck and trailer. On 13 April the GP moved to vicinity of Kasberg. The 1st Plat attached to T/F Rhea moved to vicinity of Volkringhausen, then to Honnethal, destroying 1 ammunition dump and 2 cargo trucks. 2nd Plat moved to vicinity of Honnethal, knocking out 1 half track. 3rd Plat moved to vicinity of Deilinghofen with T/F Daily. During the next day the 3rd Plat knocked out four 40mm AA guns.

4. On 16 April the Co started to march to Lemhausen, Germany arriving there at 0300 hours on the 17th. They started maintenance of vehicles upon arrival in the new area. On 29 April, Co A made a movement to Eschede and closed in that area at 1045 on the 30th. They remained here as the month ended, making preparations for coming operations.

Company B

1. Co B, on 1 April was attached to CCR and remained in an assembly area position in the general vicinity of Frankneau, Germany. The next day they were placed on a 2 hour alert at 1800 hours, for employment on call by the VII Corps. On 4 April the Co moved to new assembly positions in the vicinity of Sachsenberg, Germany with CCR.

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of April '45, cont'd)

On the following day the Co, less 2nd Plat, was attached to 38th AIB which was attached to CCB. The 6th of April found the Co in the following locations: Co Hq and 3rd Plat in Winkhausen, 1st Plat at Neider Sorpe and 2nd Plat remained attached to CCR and was placed under operational control of 40th Tk Bn at 1500 hours, on a road block mission.

2. On 8 April the Co, less 2nd Plat, made an attack towards Fredeberg, Germany. The 1st Plat destroyed one enemy OP and one mortar. During the next day Co B, less the 2nd Plat, moved with T/F Griffen from Fredeberg along route Berghausen - Winkhausen. The 2nd Plat moved with T/F Wolfe from vicinity of Fredeberg towards Dorlar. One enlisted man in the 3rd Plat was wounded by mortar fire during the attack. On 10 April the CP moved from Ndr Berndorf to Lochtrop, closing at 1530 hours. The 1st Plat and 2nd Plat moved with T/F Brown to the vicinity of Bremke, Germany and occupied road block positions. The 3rd Plat moved with T/F Griffen to a point between Bremschide and Eslohe, Germany. A tiger tank was fired on.

3. The Co moved on 12 April from vicinity of Grevenstein to locations as follows: Co CP and 1st Plat to Kuntrop, 2nd Plat to Neunrade and the 3rd Plat to Garbeck, Germany. During this operation the 1st Plat assisted in taking about 150 PW's while the 2nd Plat destroyed 1 Mk III tank, 4 halftracks, 2 - 20mm AA guns and around 35 other vehicles. This platoon took about 400 PW's and assisted with the capture of other PW's. One TD was slightly damaged and one enlisted man was wounded by bazooka fire. The 3rd Plat assisted in taking around 150 PW's. During the next day the 2nd Plat destroyed 1 Mk VI tank and one assault gun.

4. On the 15th of April, the 2nd Plat knocked out one 88mm AT gun, three 20mm quadruple AA guns and one single 20mm AA gun. The Co closed in Varmissen, Germany at 0930 hours on 18 April and began maintenance of vehicles and equipment. The Co attached to CCR, departed from Varmissen on 29 April and arrived in Bornbostel at 2220 hours, where they remained as the month ended.

Company C

1. The Company on 1 April was attached to CCB and remained in positions in Giflitz, Mehlen and Edersee, Germany. They supported operations of CCB in the vicinity of Gleoderf and Schmollenberg, Germany and on the 7th of April the Co CP was located in Winkhausen. 1st Plat was in reserve positions in the vicinity of Almert, 2nd Plat in Gleoderf and 3rd Plat in Schmollenberg, Germany where they destroyed two 75mm guns and one enemy OP.

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of April '45, cont'd)

2. On 8 April the Co, less 2nd Plat, was attached to T/F Beatty, 1st Plat attached to T/F Erlenbusch, and 3rd Plat attached to T/F Rhea. The Co CP moved from Winkhausen to the vicinity of Wormbach. During the day the 1st Plat spearheaded the attack of T/F Erlenbusch north from Balkentrop, the 2nd Plat occupied road block positions in the vicinity of Wormbach with T/F Beatty. The 3rd Plat spearheaded the attack of T/F Rhea north from Fredeberg. The next day the 3rd Plat destroyed two SP guns and took 12 PW's, near Kobbenrode, Germany.

3. The next day while attacking, the 3rd Plat moved with T/F Chappius from Kuckelheim, generally north, knocking out four SP guns, one Rcn vehicle, three sedans, two wagons, one wrecker, one Mk VI tank, two cargo trucks, one armored car, and three Mk IV tanks. All of the above were knocked out in the vicinity of Kobbenrode, Germany. On 11 April, one 20mm gun (AA) was destroyed and one Mk VI tank damaged. During the next two days the company made movements to Amecke and Kasberg, Germany.

4. On 15 April the company moved with COB to an assembly area in the vicinity of Menden, Germany, with the 2nd Plat reverting to company control at 0800 hours. The next day a move was made to Mariengarten, Germany where they started maintenance of vehicles and equipment. On 27 April, at 2400 hours, the Company was attached to COB and prepared for movement to a new area. The Co departed from Mariengarten on 30 April and moved to Sulze, Germany where it was located as the month ended.

For the Commanding Officer:

HOWELL J. WOOD
Captain Inf, (TD)
Adjutant

1 Incl:
Unit Journal for month of April.