

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
814th Tank Destroyer Battalion

AFO 230, US Army
3 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Month of March 1945.

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

1. On 1 March 1945 the 814th TD Bn was attached to the 7th Armored Division, with Bn Hq and Hq Co in billets at Daelen, Belgium. Companies were under battalion control and carried out training, maintenance of equipment and made preparation for future operations.

2. Bn Hq and Hq Co, on 5 March moved from Daelen, Belgium and closed in at Rollesbroich, Germany at 1200 hours. Battalion remained attached to the 7th Armd Div until 2000 hours on 7 March when it passed to control of III Corps.

3. On 8 March, Bn Hq and Hq Co moved from Rollesbroich, Germany to Embken, Germany and closed in at that area at 1145 hours. The battalion coordinated the movement of Division Troops to Embken, which consisted of 33rd Armd Engr Bn (-) and 203 AAA Bn (-).

4. Bn Hq, Hq Co and Sec Co (-) moved on 12 March by infiltration to Villip, Germany. Battalion coordinated movement of 33rd Armd Engr Bn (-) to Erl, Germany. The following day the Bn made a reconnaissance for direct fire positions along the Rhine River for night firing.

5. The Bn remained attached to III Corps until 0001 hours on 20 March at which time it was re-attached to the 7th Armd Div. At 1200 hours the Bn was again attached back to III Corps and ordered to coordinate plan for defense of Villip, Germany and vicinity, by Division troops against possible enemy air or ground attack.

6. Bn Hq and Hq Co left Villip, Germany at 0215 hours on 25 March and closed in at Hargarten, Germany at 0430. The Bn coordinated the movement of Div Troops. The next day, 26 March, Bn Hq and Hq Co moved to the vicinity of Kurtscheid, Germany and then during the night to the vicinity of Nordhofen, Germany, arriving at 0700 hours on 27 March. At 1015 hours another move was made which placed the Bn Hq and Hq Co at Willebrod, Germany. Later that afternoon they moved again to Holzhausen, Germany, closing in that area at 2145 hours. On the following day, 28 March, Bn Hq and Hq Co departed from Holzhausen, Germany at 1130 hours and closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of Hohensolms, Germany at 1530 hours.

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7. On the morning of 29 March, Bn Hq and Hq Co were moved to the vicinity of Heskem, Germany. During the afternoon machine gunners fired on several enemy planes. The next day a move was made which carried Bn Hq and Hq Co to the vicinity of Frankenau, Germany, where they were located as the month ended.

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

1. The company moved on 1 March from Kalterherberg, Germany and closed in at Nembach, Belgium at 1400 hours. On 2 March the 1st Platoon and 1 squad Pioneer Plat were attached to Company B for future operation and closed in at Hechelschied, Germany at 1500 hours. Rcn Co (-) remained under Battalion control and on 5 March moved from Nembach, Belgium to vicinity of Rollesbroich, Germany, closing into that area at 1200 hours.

2. On 8 March, Rcn Co (-) moved with the Bn from Rollesbroich, Germany to Bmbken, Germany, closing at 1145 hours and then moved to Villip, Germany under battalion control, on 12 March.

3. The 1st Plat and 1 squad Pioneer Plat of Rcn Co were released from attachment to Co B and rejoined Rcn Co in Villip at 1200 hours to supplement the defense of Villip and vicinity. On 23 March the 1st Plat plus 1 squad Pioneer Plat was re-attached to Co B at 1400 hours for operational control. One squad Pioneer Plat received the mission of clearing area in vicinity of Hargarten, Germany of mines.

4. The company moved from Villip, Germany to Hargarten, Germany on 25 March. While in this location Rcn Co (-) furnished bivouac guard for the Bn CP. The next day their location was changed twice, from Hargarten to Kurtschied, Germany and then to the vicinity of Willemrod, Germany. The 27th of March found the company moving to Willemrod, Germany, and later on the same day to Holzhausen, Germany, closing at 2145 hours.

5. On the following day, 28 March, the company changed its location to the vicinity of Hohensolms, Germany, arriving at 1530 hours. The 29th brought the company to the vicinity of Heskem, Germany. Here they had the mission of reconnoitering and securing the area to be occupied by the battalion. While carrying out this mission they captured several towns, took 24 PW's and liberated a group of allied prisoners of war. During the afternoon machine guns were fired on several enemy planes.

6. On 30 March Rcn Co (-) departed from Haskem, Germany and moved to the vicinity of Frankenau, Germany. The company captured 8 PW's and the next day, while performing reconnaissance of the area, captured 3 more PW's as well as destroying one enemy vehicle. As the month ended, the 1st Plat had a Road Block established at Madeback, Germany under control of CCA. During this period the 1st and 2nd Rcn Platoons assisted in capturing about 1100 PW's, but full credit is not taken.

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

COMPANY A

1. 1 March found the company at Bullingen, Belgium, where it remained until 3 March when it moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Konzen, Germany, arriving at 1130 hours. At this time the company became attached to CCA and 1st Plat to TF Wemple for future operations. For the operation the company had attached the 2nd Plat of Rcn Co and 1 squad Pioneer Plat from Rcn Co.

2. The company moved under CCA on 7 March from Konzen, Germany to an assembly area in the vicinity of Fussenich, Germany, closing at 1400 hours. The next day the company moved to Miel, Germany. The platoons remained attached as on the 3rd of March, with the 3rd Plat being attached to TF Griffen. The three Task Forces supported an attack in the 9th Inf Div zone toward the Rhine River. On 9 March the company changed its location from Miel, Germany to Berkum, Germany. The 1st Plat with TF Rhea operated in the vicinity of Oberwinter, 2nd Plat with TF Wemple, in the vicinity of Oberbachen and the 3rd Plat with TF Griffen in the vicinity of Mehlen, Germany. The 3rd Plat fired 4 rounds HE and destroyed one towed gun and a house containing Germans on the east bank of the Rhine River. During the night the 3rd Plat moved to the vicinity of Rolandsworth, Germany.

3. About 1600 on 10 March, three rounds of mortar fire fell in the 3rd Plat area from across the Rhine, wounding 2 enlisted men. On 11 March the company moved about 1300 hours from Berkum, Germany and Rolandsworth, Germany to Lissesem, Germany. The Platoons were relieved of attachment to the Task Forces and the company was attached for operations to the 489th FA Bn for indirect fire mission. The 2nd Plat of Rcn Co remained attached for operational control. At about 1530 hours on 12 March the company fired 50. cal. machine guns on enemy planes. One bomb was dropped about 400 yards from a gun position. During the night the company fired 216 rounds HE unobserved fire at targets east of the Rhine River. Thirty four rounds HE unobserved fire was fired during the night of 13 March. The following day the 1st Plat was relieved from the indirect fire mission and attached at 1715 hours to the 23rd AIB to be employed on direct fire mission from positions along the Rhine River between Rolandseck and Oberwinter, Germany. The company fired indirect fire missions until 21 March when it was relieved from operational control of the 489th FA Bn at 0001 hours and moved to Kurrighoven, Germany at 1100 hours, still attached to CCA. The attached Rcn Plat was assigned a road patrol mission under control of TF Wemple.

4. On 23 March the company changed its position to the vicinity of Hessel, Germany and closed at 0045 hours on 24 March. The next day the company moved to the vicinity of Ehlicheide, Germany. The 1st Plat, attached to TF Rhea, destroyed one SP 88mm gun and one 20mm gun. Three enlisted men were wounded in the action. The company moved with CCA on 26 March to the vicinity of Dessen, Germany.

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The Hq section captured 25 prisoners. The following day the companies location moved to Ehringhausen, Germany where it destroyed 2 railroad ammunition trains and fired on troop concentrations in Werdorf, Germany. One truck and one Mk V tank were destroyed. Some prisoners were also captured.

5. The company on 28 March moved to Giessen, Germany where more PW's were taken and about 800 American PW's liberated, as well as 200 miscellaneous allied PW's at Dutenhofen, Germany. The next day a move was made to Nordeck, Germany. On 30 March, the company moved to the vicinity of Haubun, Germany. Hq Section and the 3rd Plat were relieved from TF King and attached to Trains Guard. The 1st Plat was relieved from TF Rhea.

6. The month closed with the company moving to Ellershausen, Germany, and the 1st Plat Co A and 2nd Plat Rcn Co being attached to TF Daily.

COMPANY B

1. The company on 1 March was located in Steckenborn, Germany and Hechelschied, Germany where the road maintenance detail joined them at 1200 hours. The company received 1st Plat and 1 squad Pioneer Plat of Rcn Co in Heckelschied at 1500 hours. For the coming operation the company attached to CCR was further attached as follows: 1st Plat to TF Chappius, 2nd Plat to TF Brown and 3rd Plat to TF Griffen, initially in reserve.

2. On 7 March the company moved from Steckenbon, Germany to an assembly area in the vicinity of Wallersheim, Germany, closing at 1200 hours. From Wallersheim the company moved to the vicinity of Heimerzheim, Germany on 8 March. The next day brought two moves to the company, the first one from Heimerzheim to the vicinity of Rottgen, Germany and the second one to Uckesdorf, Germany. The 1st Plat, attached to TF Chappuis, was given the mission of clearing the area in the vicinity of Ippendorf, Germany and then released at 1600 hours from the Task Force.

3. The company became attached to CCB at 1100 hours on 10 March and reconnoitered for direct fire positions south of Bonn. On the following day the company moved to the vicinity of Bad Godesberg, Germany and was sub-attached to 440th FA Bn for operational control, on indirect fire mission. On 12 March, enemy artillery fire was received, but no casualties were suffered. During the night 180 rds of HE unobserved fire was fired at targets east of the Rhine River and 178 rounds of HE was fired the following day at similiar targets.

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

4. On 14 March the company fired 257 rounds of HE unobserved fire at targets east of the Rhine. The 2nd Plat was relieved of indirect fire mission and attached at 1715 hours to CCR to be employed on direct fire mission along the Rhine River in the vicinity of Bad Godesberg, Germany, replacing elements of the 817th TD Bn. The 1st Plat of Ren Co accompanied the 2nd Plat on direct fire missions. On 15 March the company fired 120 rounds of HE unobserved fire at targets east of the Rhine River, and reverted to CCR with the company, less the 2nd Plat which remained under operational control of 440th FA Bn. During the following day, 164 rounds of HE unobserved fire was fired on targets east of the Rhine River. On 17 March, while no missions were fired, artillery fire was received which damaged one 1/4 ton vehicle and wounded three enlisted men of the attached Ren Platoon.

5. The company fired indirect fire missions until 24 March when it moved from Bad Godesberg, Germany during the night of 24-25 March to an assembly area east of the Rhine River, still under control of CCR. On 25 March a move was made to the vicinity of Gilrend, Germany. The 1st and 2nd Platoons were operating with TF Brown, while the 3rd Platoon was with TF Briffen. On the following day the company moved its location and knocked out a number of vehicles with machine gun and small arms fire. One Panther tank was destroyed with a thermite grenade. The company also liberated 46 allied PW's. Firing positions were held until 28 March when the company moved to the vicinity of Bellenhausen, Germany. Several enemy vehicles loaded with gas, arms and ammunition were destroyed. 14 PW's were captured on the operation. On the following day the company destroyed an OP and a 20mm gun. Firing positions were being occupied in this vicinity as the month ended.

COMPANY C

1. The company remained at Bullengin, Belgium until 3 March when it closed in the vicinity of Witzerath, Germany at 1215 hours. Upon arrival in this area the company became attached to CCB. On 8 March the company moved from its assembly area at Witzerath to Thuir, Germany, closing at 1400 hours.

2. On 9 March the company changed its location from Thuir, Germany at about 1030 hours to the vicinity of Heimerzheim, Germany. The next day the company moved to Ippendorf, Germany and reconnoitered for direct fire positions south of Bonn, Germany.

3. The company changed its location to the vicinity of Paulshof, Germany on 11 March. Later it was further attached from CCB for operational control to the 434th FA Bn for indirect fire mission. It fired 60 rounds HE unobserved fire at targets east of the Rhine River on 14 March. The following three days were spent in the same positions and indirect fire was placed on targets east of the Rhine.

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of March '45, cont't)

4. On 21 March the company was released from operational control of 434th FA Bn, but remained in place until the night of 24-25 March at which time it moved from Paulshof, Germany to an assembly area east of the Rhine River, still under CCB. The company moved from vicinity of Olenburg to the vicinity of Uettelschoss, Germany on 25 March and the next day to Puderbach, Germany. It moved to the vicinity of Steinen, Germany where the 2nd Plat received fire from and enemy SP gun. The 2nd Plat took 20 PW's in Rossbach while the 3rd Plat knocked out an enemy halftrack in Seck, Germany. On 28 March a move was made to vicinity of Ronhausen, Germany and the next day to Kirchain, and then to Diedenbach, Germany. The 2nd Plat occupied road block positions and fired on snipers in the town of Kirchain. They took 12 PW's. The 3rd Plat destroyed one 88mm gun, while 18 German soldiers were killed and 26 captured in the operation.

5. As the month ended, the company was in three different places. Hq and 2nd Plat in Giflity, 1st Plat in Edensee, and the 3rd Plat in Mehlen, Germany.

For the Commanding Officer:



HOWELL J. WOOD
 Captain, Inf
 Adjutant

1 Incl:
 Unit Journal, 814th TD Bn, month of March '45.

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