# SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 818TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

SHCRMT :AUTH: OG 26th Inf Div: JST. Adj.: :818th TD Battelion

APO 436, US Army 1 Apr 45

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Enemy Report.

: Commanding General, TO 26th Infantry Division, APO 26, US Army.

In compliance with paragraph 10, change 4, AR 345-105, the following report is submitted for the period 1 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45 inclusive:

#### PERSONNEL:

Total effective strength at beginning of period: 39 0 1 WO 634 RM. Total 674. At end of period: 40 0 1 WO 606 EM. Total 647.

4 IN Killed in action: Wounded in action: 2 0 20 EM Missing in action: 1 EM

c. Reinforcements received: 24 reinfercements, 12 of which were RTD's.

### 2. ENEMY:

a. In Sagrautern sector, major exemy units in contact were 719th Inf Div and 347 Inf Div. In Serrig sector, major units in contact were 2d Mtm Div and 416 Inf Div. As unit advanced through the Saar, Moselle, Rhine triangle between 15 Mar and 20 Mar, a large number of different units were identified, but major units were 17 SS Pz Gren Div, 416 Inf Div, 719 Inf Div and 347 Inf Div. After 20 Mar no division sized units were in contact W of the Rhine and resistance was from stragglers and misc units. East of the Rhine during the remainder of the period resistance was also from a large number of misc units, such as March Cos, Repl Bus, Schools, etc. Elements of 159 Inf Div were known to be operating in our zone of advance and at end of period, tanks of the 11th Pz Div were in our sector.

b. In the Sagrigutern sector enemy resisted stubbornly from excellent defensive positions in the Siegfried Line. In the Serrig sector, terrain was excellent for defense and unsuitable for tank employment. Enemy resisted strongly at first, aided by numerous fortifications, but later fell back in disorganized retreat. Enemy tanks were reported, but could not be used successfully because of terrais and our great superiority in all lines. During our advance to the Rhine, the enemy retreat became a route, with great numbers of enemy vehicles being destroyed by our air force. In the sector E of the Rhine enemy resistance was scattered and at no time was there a definit organized defense line.

c. Enemy losses as a result of action of 818th TD Bu only:

32 Vehicles Pill boxes destroyed AT Gums Fortified houses MG guns Wagons Exemy casualties (est) 175

d. Priseners captured by 818th TD Bn enly: 266.

e. Enemy morale as a whole was bad at start of period and grew progressively worse. Most enemy soldiers were willing to surrender when opportunity presented itself. Most officers were exceptions and many believed that Germany could still win the war. Enemy equipment was generally good but there was a decided lack of artillery, air support, armer, transport of all kinds, communication and in some cases, arms and ammunition. UNCLASSIFIE

#### 3. ACTION:

a. The 818th TD Bm was stond to 56 Int Day and asgd to XX Corps up until 23 Mar 45, and from that date until close of the biotist the Bm was atchd to 26th Inf Div and asgd to XII Corps. Location of Gallagh Berney Germany Q242745 1 Mar to 8 Mar; Kastel-Staadt L151080 8 Mar to 18 Mar 34095 18 Mar; Berschweiler Q485926 19 Mar to 21 Mar; Landstuhl Q877908 21 Mar to 23 Mar Gau Odernheim M332315 23 Mar

# SECRET

te 26 Mar; Darmstadt M674424 26 Mar; KLEIN AUHEIM M849677 26 Mar to 30 Mar; MARKOBEL M886812 30 Mar to 1 Apr. The organic 57mm AT units plus the organic and atchd Arty of the 26th Inf Div and the 778th Tank Bn all provided additional AT protection.

b. Missien: The mission of the 818th TD Bn during the entire period was to provide anti-mechanized protection for the 26th Inf Div. Additional secondary missions were: Supporting field artillery Bns with indirect fire, the destruction of pillboxes in the Siegfried Line, and supporting Infantry with direct fire against enemy pockets, houses, and fortifications.

c. Operations: On 1 Mar one destroyer 2d pl Co A fr pos at Q308742 fired 12 rds APC and 10 rds HE at en pillbox Q326752. 3 penetrations reported. Co A 1st pl on moving to a firing pos mired an M36 destroyer in the mud and it caught fire and Co A in indirect fire pos supporting 102 FA Bn expended 4 rds on registration and on 3 H & I missions 54 rds HE expended. One destroyer 3d pl Co C fr pos Q287812 fired 14 rds APC into pillboxes at Q293821 and Q294821. Penetration unconfirmed. Co B 1st pl moved to pos at Q200900 and fired 33 rds APC on pillbexes at Q217904, Q216-907 and Q214908 with unconfirmed results. Go B 2d pl fr pos at Q224872 fired 11 rds APC and 4 rds HE at pillbox Q229893 with probable penetration. Co B 3d pl fr pos at Q189900 fired 18 rds APC and 4 rds HE at pillboxes across SAAR R. Ron Co 1st pl OP vic Wadgassen; 2d pl moved to Waldwisse. On 3d Mar Co A 3d pl in indir fire posifired 6 H & I missions, expending 159 rds HE. One sec 1st pl Ce B fr pos fired on pillbexes at Q218901, Q220901, and Q219899 ebtaining 14 penetrations on the 3 fortifications. 2d sec 3d pl Co B fr pss Q190937 fired 27 rds APC and 3 rds HE on pillboxes at Q199938, Q199932 and Q199935, on all pillboxes. One destroyer 2d pl Co B moved to pos at Q229860 and fired 10 rds HE at en OP at Q236891 with unknown results. Co C 3d pl fr pos in SAARLAUTERN fired 15 rds APC and 6 rds HE at pillboxes at Q293822, Q297826, and Q300827. Probable penetration on 1st and 2d pillboxes and also on cupola on 3d pilleox. Ron 2d pl established OP's at Q203900 and vic SCHWMLINGEN Q173964. One Magni from this pl fired 6 rds AP and 3 rds HE (37mm) at pillbox Q299889. Results unknown. Pio pl maintaining road between DIFFERTEN and WADGASSEN.

On 3d Mar one destroyer 2d pl Co A fr pos Q311740 fired 6 rds APC and 6 rds

HE at pillboxes at Q328765 and Q325750, obtaining hits but with makenown results. Co

A 3d pl in indirect fire pos fired 5 H & I missions expending 148 rds HE. One destroyer 3d pl Co C fr pos Q287812 fired 16 rds APC at pillbox Q293822, range 1200 yds,

obtaining 14 hits but extend of penetration unknown. Also fired 7 rds APC on steel

cupola Q396820, range 1500 yds, obtaining a hit on target. One sec 3d pl Co B fr pos

at Q172972 and Q173970 fired 26 rds APC and 6 rds HE at pillboxes at Q181979, Q18—

2974, and Q182976 obtaining penetrations on all pillboxes and inflicting 7 casualties

on enemy. On 4 Mar Co A 3d pl in indirect fire pos expended 191 rds HE on 6 H & I

missions and 37 rds on one observed mission on enemy OP. Co A atchd to 774th TD Bn

w/ 94th Inf Div and moved to BEURIG L154124. 2d sec 1st pl Co B fr pos Q200914 fired

30 rds APC and 6 rds HE on 4 pillboxes obtaining penetrations on 2 of them, ranges

400-700 yds. 2d sec 3d pl Co B fr pos at Q175968 and Q173970 fired 23 rds APC and 3

rds HE at 4 pillboxes, ebtaining penetrations on 2 of them. Co B atchd to 328 Inf at

1800 hrs by Frag O 342. Ce C 3d pl fr pos in SAARLAUTERN Q286813 fired 14 rds APC at

pillbex Q296820 range 1900 yds, obtaining possible penetration. Co C atchd to 101 Inf

at 1800 hrs by Frag O 342. Ren Co manning OP's.

On 5 Mar Co B 2d pl fr pos-fired 41 rds APC and 9 rds HE at 5 pillboxesp ranges 400-800 yds ebtaining penetration on all. 1st sec 1st pl Co B fr pos Q203899 fired 32 rds APC and 7 rds HE at 3 pillboxes, obtaining penetration on all 3. Co B moved at 1900 hrs to SERRIG L163090. Co C 2d pl fr pos in LISDORF Q292783 fired 13 rds APC and 8 rds HE at a house and 1 pillbox, destroying house and obtaining penetration on pillbox. 1st sec 2d pl Co C fr pos fired 14 rds APC and 5 rds HE on 2 pillboxes, penetrating them both through embrasures.

On 6 Mar Co A 1st pl at L225162 fought off enemy patrol that had infiltrated through front lines. Co B moved to KASTEL-STAADT L150079. Other units no change.

On 7 Mar Co C meved out of SAARLAUTERN for movement to new area. Co B placed in dir spt of 194th Inf; pl's moved in spt of Inf Bas. Co A reld fr 774th TD Ba by FO 15, 94th Inf Div and placed in spt of 101 Inf Regt. Co CP moved to OBEREMMEN.

On 8 Mar Bn. CP, Rcm & Hq Co's left BERUS and moved to new area: Bn CP to KASTEL-STADE L151080; Rcm Co to WEITEN L134041; Hq Co to KAHREN L113115. Co A atchd to 3d Cav Gp; Co CP moved to KERNSCHEID L243255; pls moved to pes in spt of Sqs. Co C at WILTINGEN L175181; reld fr atchmt to 328th Inf and placed in spt of the Regt.

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On 9 Mar Co-B 2d pl moved to 1237120; 3d pl to reserve at IRSCH 1176126. Co C moved to WEITEN-L136041 and was reld fr spt of 328th Ifnand placed in gen spt of Div by Frag 0-351 at 1200 hrs. Rox Co-pls moved to Regt 1 sectors and one OP established at L217108. All units no change.

On 10 Mar Co A 2d pl moved to TARFORST L254277. As per Frag 0 353 Co C in D/S 328 Inf Regt. Co C 3d pl fr pes L173055 fired 26 rds APC and 4 rds HE on 2 pillboxes. Penetration not known, but enemy personnel driven from fortifications. Other units m/c.
On 11 Mar Co A CP moved to RUWER L263324 and pls moved in spt of Eqs. Co C

moved to SERRIG L161090. All units no action.

On 12 Mar Go A reld fr atchmt to 3d Cay Gp and moved to WEITEN L134041. Co A

now in gen spt of Div. Other units no change.

On 13 Mar at 0300 hrs 26th Inf Div attacked to the S. Co B in spt of 104th Inf and Co C in spt of 328th Inf moved S as attack progressed. Co A in gen spt at WEITEN. Rcm Co 2d; 3d, and Pio Pls assisting Co B & G. No action.

On 14 Mar 1st sec 1st pl Co A fr pos L167019 fired 35 rds HE and 1 rd APC at pillbox L202010 and house atlL98009. No effect on pillbox; house badly damaged; casualties inflicted unknown. Co A placed in D/S 101 Inf by Frag 0 361 at 2145 hrs. Co B 2d pl 2d sec fr pos L212077 fired 7 rds HE, 1200 rds 50 cal, and 1000 rds 30 cal at en MG pes. Results unknown. One destroyer struck buried mine and was slightly damaged. Co B 1st pl moved to L227063 with TH Denaldson and was fired on by enemy SP gum, destroying one M36, wounding pl leader and 2 EM. Co C 1st pl fr pes L172055 fired 28 rds HE and 5 rds APC into pillbox and intrenchments vic L195052. A number of en were killed and 5 were taken prisoner by Inf. 2d pl Co C fired 14 rds HE and 2 rds APC at pillbox and intrenchments at L187049 with unknown results. Ron Co pls continued to assist gua companies.

On 15 Mar Co A pls moved in spt of 101 Inf in secotr. Co B 2d pl fired 1 rd HE and 200 rds 50 cal at en foot troops, inflicting some casualties. Ron Co lat pl estd

OP at L179025. Other units no change.

On 16 Mar Co A CP moved to SERRIG L157093. Pls moved S in spt of Inf Bas. Co B moved to L223036 and pls are supporting Inf Bns in attack. Co C 1st and 2d pl moved to SARRHOLZBACH, 2d pl took 20 PW's there. Ron Co 2d pl established OP at 1232027. Section of Pio pl assisting Co B located en AP mine field and 3 seriously wounded 26th Div Infantrymen who had been in minefield for 3 days were reached after removing 30 Wooden schu mines.

On 17 Mar Co A CP moved to BROTDORF L235973 and pls supported 101 Inf Bas. Co B CP moved to REIMSBACH L300949 and pls continued movement with 104th Inf. Co

CP moved to MERZIG L203944; pls moved with Inf Bas.
On 18 Mer Co A CP and 2d pl moved to BUPRICH-HUTTERSDORF Q354914, 3d pl in spt of TF St Patrick fired 26 rds HE, 3 rds APC, and 250 rds 50 cel at em MG emplacements with unknown results. Co B CP and 2d pl moved to AUSSEN Q352947. 1st pl in spt of TF Donaldson fired 38 rds HE, 3000 rds 30 cal and 1500 rds 50 cal in attack on town.

Later this pl fired 17 rds HE in spt of Inf Bn. Co C CP. 2d, and 3d pls moved to AUSSN with 328th Inf. Ba CP, Rom Co CP and Pio pl moved to AUSSEN Q360939. Hq Ce moved to Hargarten Q271957.

On 19 Mar Co A CP moved to EPPELBORN them to WUSTWEILER Q493889; 1st pl to HUMES; 2d pl to WUSTWEILER, 3d pl to ILLINGEN-GENNWEILER. Co B CP moved to UREXWEILER Q522928. 2d pl im spt of 2d Bm 104th Inf fired 15 rds HE destroying 2 MG's and 3d pl in spt of 3d Bn 104th Inf destroyed two AT guns vic BACHEM. One 3/4 ton 6x6 vehicle of 3d pl Co B caught fire and burned. Co B 1st pl w/ TF Donaldson fired 10 rds HE on an troops. Results unknown. 2d pl Co B in spt of 2d Bn fired 15 rds HE and 4 rds APC into OTTWEILER and then moved into town. Direct fire fr en 88 and 75mm AT guas was received by pl, destroying two M36s and damaging 2 others that had to be evacuated. Two EM were killed and pl leader and 4 EM were wounded. Co C CP moved to ASCHBACK Q436936. 1st pl moved to DIRMINGEN to guard Div CP. Other 2 pls moved with Inf Bas. Frag O 381 reld Co C (less 1st pl) fr D/S of 328th Inf and placed them in gen spt of Div. Bm CP, Rcm Co CP, and Pie pl meved to BERSCHWEILER Q485924. Rcm 2d pl established OP at Q572910. Ron pls assisting gum Co's. Hq Co moved to GRESAUBACH Q390951.

On 20 Mar Co A CP moved to OTTWEILER Q585854; 1st and 3d pls to STEINBACH, 2d pl to SAND. Co B CP and 2d pl moved to NANZWEILER Q788941: 1st and 3d pls to KATZ-ENBACH. Co C CP; 1st pl to OTTWEILER with Div CP; 2d and 3d pls to DORRENBACH. Frag O 384 placed Co C in spt of 328th Inf at 1700 hrs. As per Frag O 387, Task Force HAIL formed to protect Div right flank and to consist of 1 pl Co A, 1 pl Co B, Ron Co (less 3d pl), one sec Btry D 390th AAA (AW) Bn, and Co F 104th Inf Regt. Ron Co 3 light tanks sent to protect Div CP at OTTWEILER. As per Frag O 389 Ce C at chd to 328th

inf Regt at 2000 hrs.

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On 21 Mar Ge A (less 2d pl) in spt of 101 Inf moved GP to JOHANNISKRMUZ RO64821 and 2 pls moved with Inf Bus, 2d pl with TF Mail moved to MITTELERUNN. Co B 1st pl in Support TF Denaldson destroyed 1 on truck with 50 cal MG fire; 3d pl in spt of 3d Bu 104 Inf captured 16 enemy at Remstein. Ge G in spt of 328th Inf moved to TRIPPSTADT RO38843. Ren Ge (less 3d pl) patrolling roads on Div R flank from Div GP to W making contact with 65th Inf Div. Ren 1st pl encountered enemy column at MITTELERUNN which resisted with SA and AV fire and fire from small arty pieces. The pls 37mm gwn destroyed some of the carts and wagens and then withdrow. Ren Ge captured 102 Germans during the day. Bu GP and Mq Co moved to LANDSTUHL Q877908.

On 22 Mar Co A 2d pl reld fr TF Hail. Ce A moved to HESSIOCH w/ 101 Inf Regt and took 2 PW's at that point. Ce C moved w/ 328 Enf to new Div sector vic FRAMER-SCHEIM M320290. Ren (less 3d pl) continued on patrel of R flank. Co F 106th Inf reld

from TF Hail. Other units reverted to their parent erg centrel.

On 23 Mar Co C CP, 2d & 3d pls moved to HILLESHEIN M375310; 1st pl vie STALECKEN. Co B enroute with 104th Inf to new sector vic EPPELSHEIN M309228. Ren Co moved to GAU KONGERNHEIN M336307. Hq Co moved to ALZEY M270272. Bn CP moved to Gau 6BERNHEIN M332315. As of today Bn is atchd to 26th Inf Div and attached to XII Corps. All units no action.

On 24 Mar Ce C CP, 2d & 3d pls meved to FINTHEN M315540; 1st pl to vic MAINZ M375570. As per Frag C 415 Ce C reld fr atchmt to 328th Inf and placed in D/S of the Regt. Co B moved with 104th Inf to NIEDER-SAULHEIN M300418. Other units no change, no action.

On 25 Mar Co A moved to assy area vic UELVERSHEIM M398346. At 1945 hrs Co A crossed RHINE R and moved to vic LEMMEIM M508400. Go B (less lat and 2d pls) moved at 0230 hrs with 104 Inf Regt across RHINE R; CP, 2d and 1st pl to GODDELAU M550377; 3d pl to PFUNGSTAHT. 104th Inf Regt attached to 4th Armd Div. Co C moved to assy area vic LORZWEILER M404447 w/ 328th Inf. Eq Co moved to GAU KONGERNHEIM and prepared to

accompany Bn CP, Ron Co and Co C across RHINE R.

On 26 Mar Bn CP, Mq, Rem & Co C crossed the RHINE R from 2401 to 0400 hrs. Bn CP and Hq Co closed into assy at GODDELAU and at 1400 hrs moved to DARMSTADT. Co A 2d pl atchd to 26th Rem Tr as per Frag O 426 and moved w/ troop to BEBENHAUSEN. Remainder Co A in spt of 101 Inf Regt moved to SELIGSTADT M883612. Co A 2d pl fired 17 rds HE and 1 rd APC into EPPERSHAUSEN M799502 in spt of 26th Rem Tr and assisted in taking 5 PW's. The pl moved onto HARRISHAUSEN taking 12 more German prisoners. Co B CP moved to ROSSDORF and later to SICKENHOFEN M955308; 3d pl to BABENHAUSEN M878520. Co C in spt of 328th Inf with 4th Armd Div moved to WEISKIRCHEN M821620. Rem Co after crossing RHINE stopped in assy at GODDELAU and later moved to EBER... STADT M654365; 1st pl established OP vic HAHN M585332; 2d pl established OP at M670325; and 3d pl established OP vic NOR MODAU M714340. Rem Co pls took BW's in all during day.

On 27 Mar Co A 1st pl moved across MAIN R and joined 1st Bn 101 Inf at GROSSAUHEIM, 3d pl moved to GROSSKROTZENBURG. Co B CP moved to BABENHAUSEN M873512 and was joined by 1st and 2d pls; 3d pl moved to pos at M990470. Co C CP 2d and 3d pls moved to KLEIN AUREIM; 1st to HAINSTADT. In afternoon entire Co crossed MAIN R. CP and 3d pl to GROSSAUHEIN M860683; 2d pl to via KANAU; 1st pl to M868685. By Frag O 432 Co C atchd to 228th Inf at 1530 hrs. Ron Co established OPs on Div R flank, of 1st pl at M794461; 2d pl at M875521; 3d pl at M934342. Ron 2d pl later moved to SELIGENSTADT and established OP there. Ron Co CP and Pie pl moved to HAINSTADT M862651. As per Frag O 433, Ron Co (less 1 pl) placed in D/S of 101 Inf Regt with mission of reconncitering to NE in 101 Inf sector. All units no action. Bn CP moved to MAIN AUHEIM M849677. Hq Co moved to OBERTSHAUSEN M898643.

On 28 Mar Co A 1st pl at CROSSKROTZENBURG M894655; 3d pl at M875683; 2d pl w/ 26th Rcm Tr moved to STOCKSTADT M955535. Co B 3d pl moved to STOCKSTADT. Co C moved to HAMAU in spt of 328th Inf Regt. One destroyer of 3d pl Co C fr pes in HAMAU M839718 fired 8 rds HE and 750 rds 30 Cal MG into buildings holding snipers. 4 German O and 4 EM surrendered. Rcm Co 1st and 3d pls reconneitered NE in spt of 101 Inf. At 0055 hrs on encountered at KALBERAU M971666 resulting in a fire fight. One of pls M8 armored cars knocked out by German baseoks and burned. 3 EM injured and 1 missing in action.

On 29 Mar Co A CP moved to KAHL A MAIN M908645. As per Frag 0 440 Co A (less 2d pl) reld fr spt of 101 Inf and placed in spt of 104th Inf Regt. 2d pl atchd to 26th Rcn Tr by Frag 0 440, moved to MANAU; lst pl moved to ALZENAU M955656; 3d pl to Gr WELZHEIM M928612. As per FO 8 of 2300 hrs Co A (less 2d pl) atchd to 104th Inf. Co B reld fr spt of 104th Inf and placed in spt of 101 Inf by Frag 0 440. Co B and pls crossed MAIN R and located at WOLFGARG M873699. As per FO 8, Co B atchd to 101 Inf Regt. Co C sptd attack of 328 Inf. By FO 8 Co C atchd to 328 Inf. One pl Rcm Co atchd to each gum Co by FO 8. Rcm 1st pl moved to MAHL A MAIN; 2d pl to WOLFGARG; 3d pl to HANAU.

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On 30 Mar Co A CP moved to Langensbold M931762; lst pl to ROTHENBERGEN; 3d-pl to LIEBLOS; 2d pl with 26th Ren Tr to ROMMEHAUSEN. \*Co B sptd 101 Inf in clearing sector; CP and 2d pl moved to BUDINGEN M978890; st and 3d pls on march with two columns of 101 Inf. Co C CP and 1st pl moved to DUDELSHEIM M920890; 2d and 3d pls moved with Bns of 328th Inf. Ren Co CP and Pio pl moved to ALT WIEDERMUS M939825; pls moved with gun Co's. Bn CP and Hq Co moved to MARKOBEL M887812. All units no action.

On 31 Mar Co A CP moved to WITTGENBACH NO88886; 1st and 3d pls supported attack of 104th Inf through GELNHAUSEN and to NE. Co B CP and 2d pl moved last evening to FREIENSTEINAU H185045 and 1st and 3d pls supporting the 101 Inf in clearing secotr. Co C CP moved to KIRCHBRACHT H093013. Pls supporting 328th Inf in clearing of sector. Rcm Co CP and Pio pl moved to NEUENSCHMIDTEN N109917. Rcm pls atchd to gun Co's and assisting Regts in recommissance of Routes. Bm CP moved to SCHLIERBACH N110909. Hq Co moved to Kefenrod N044952.

4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION:

a. Summary of supply activity during period and factors affecting flow of supply. The period covered by this report, the Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div. The various supply agencies of the Div supplied the Bn with the exception of class V and Ordnance class II which were obtained from the mearest Corps or Army installations. Ordnance requisitions, repair and replacements were handled by the 565th and 50lst Heavy Tank Ordnance Company. Bogie wheels and rear idlers for the M36 have been very critical items during this period.

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b. Rations for the month averaging 85% "B", and 15% 10 in 1, were issued to the Co's daily. Companies requisitioned on Bn for all supplies, which are secured as rapidly as possible from the proper supply agencies. Motor Maintenance and parts upply was handled by the Bn Motor Officer. The 565th and 501st Heavy Tank Ordnance Company provided Third Echelon maintenance. First and second echelon maintenance was performed by the Battalion Motor Maintenance platoon and Company motor sections. Ammunition: Basic load maintained by replacement as expended.

c. Status of Supply and Evacuation at close of period:

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Major critical items short are:

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26th INFANTRY

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4 each Destroyers M36; 3 each Vehicle Tank Recovery M32,

C. L. Haif

Lieutnement Colonel, Infantry, COMMANDING.

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