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Auth: Ltr 5th Armd Div

Date: 1 May 1945

Init:

HEADQUARTERS
628th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)
APO 339, U. S. Army

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report of After Action Against Enemy - Month of April

TO : Commanding General, Hq. 5th Armored Division, APO 255, U.S. Army

- A. Campaign of Northern France
Campaign of Germany
- B. Losses in action were as follows:

(1) Personnel

a. Killed in Action

Sgt. Doyle E. Swilley, 36014268, KIA in Ger, 12 Apr 45

b. Wounded and Injured Men in Action

Lt. Herbert A. Pratte, O-1822725, LWA in Ger, 3 Apr 45,
(Evacuated)

Lt. James M. Martin, O-1823331, LWA in Ger, 3 Apr 45,
(Evacuated)

Pvt. Lawrence J. Kreig, 32201941, LIA in Ger, 6 Apr 45,
(Evacuated)

T/5 Jay A. Hoffman, 36400135, LIA in Ger, 9 Apr 45,
(Rem Dy)

Cpl. Angello (NMI) Salamone, 32114241, LWA in Ger,
12 Apr 45, (Evacuated)

T/5 Ordell (NMI) Haedrick, 37022311, LWA in Ger,
15 Apr 45, (Rem Dy)

Cpl. Charles J. Sarnecki, 36527814, LWA in Ger,
15 Apr 45, (Rem Dy)

Lt. David (NMI) Doerr, O-1821835, LWA in Ger, 16 Apr 45,
(Evacuated)

S/Sgt. James S. Holder, 34425397, LWA in Ger, 16 Apr 45,
(Evacuated)

c. Non-Battle Casualties

Sgt. Wendall A. Chamberlin, 33496549, 1 Apr 45 (Evac)

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Pfc Bishop R. Love, 34386245, 4 Apr 45, (Evacuated)
 Pfc Ame R. Pena, 39707639, 7 Apr 45, (Evacuated)
 Pfc Arthur E. Demirjian, 32705810, 12 Apr 45, (Evac)
 Pfc Luther E. Sells, 34371337, 12 Apr 45, (Evacuated)
 Pvt. Joseph M. Gallina, 32938945, 18 Apr 45, (Evac)
 T/4 Robert M. Sill, 34386825, 26 Apr 45, (Evacuated)
 Lt. Edward V. Jahoda, 0-1822012, 27 Apr 45, (Evac)
 Pvt. Lovenugh S. Goe, 35735452, 27 Apr 45, (Evacuated)
 Pvt. Benjamin (NMI) Tomaszewski, 33028875, 29 Apr 45,
 (Evacuated)
 Capt. James H. Lloyd, 0-409317, 30 Apr 45, (Evacuated)

d. Missing in Action - none

e. Captured - none



(2) Vehicular

a. One M-36 Tank Destroyer and one (1) 2 1/2 ton 6 x 6 were destroyed during the month by enemy action.

C. Commanding Officers were:

(1) Battalion Commander: William J. Gallagher, Lt. Col., F. A.,
 0-384952, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

(2) Hq. Company Commander: Daniel L. Thomas, Capt., F. A.,
 0-422282, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

(3) Company "A" Commander: James H. Lloyd, Capt., F. A.,
 0-409317, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

(4) Company "B" Commander: Frank E. Hurt, Jr., 1st Lt., E.A. (TD),
 0-1822008, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

(5) Company "C" Commander: Robert C. Jones, Capt., F.A. (TD),
 0-1822013, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

(6) Ren. Company Commander: David (NMI) Doerr, 1st Lt., F.A. (TD)
 0-1821835, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 1400 hours 16 April 45

Charles H. Geissel, 1st Lt., F.A. (TD)
 0-1821994, from 1400 hours 16 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

(7) Medical Detachment: Francis T. England, Capt., M. C.,
 0-1683058, from 0001 hours 1 April 45 to 2400 hours 30 April 45

D. Attachments and Assignments were as follows:

(1) Battalion Hq., Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance Company

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(-) one platoon remained under 5th Armored Division Artillery control.

(2) Company "A" was attached to Combat Command "A" for tactical operations and remained under their control until 25 April when the company reverted back to Battalion control.

(3) Company "B" plus the Reconnaissance platoon was attached to Combat Command "B" for tactical operations and remained under their control until 25 April at which time the company reverted back to Battalion control.

(4) Company "C" was attached to Combat Command "B" for tactical operations and remained under their control until 25 April when it reverted back to Battalion control.

E. Movements, Boundaries and Command Posts

(see attached overlay)

F. Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:

(1) Direct Fire

a. HE - 159 rds.

b. APCBDF - 81 rds.

(2) Indirect Fire

a. HE - 200 rds.

(3) Losses

a. One (1) M-36 Tank Destroyer complete with basic load was lost due to enemy action.

G. Unit's Operations for the Period:

Initially all the firing companies were attached to the Combat Commands, Battalion Hq., Headquarters Company and the Reconnaissance Company (-) one platoon remained under Division Artillery control. The companies were given missions by the Combat Command Commanders by oral orders. The Battalion did not operate as a tactical unit during this operation.

Period: 1 April to 8 April (attack from Rhine River east to the Moser River)

Battalion Hq., Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance

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Company (-) moved with Division Artillery Hq. in the vicinity of Stockum, Germany, P2 (735683). From here the Battalion (-) marched with Division Artillery Hq. behind Combat Command "R" moving through Junden, Germany, (830620); Rinkerode, Germany, (P2-967610); Sendenhorst, Germany, P2 (060606); to bivouac in vicinity of Everswinkel, Germany, P2 (073684). Reconnaissance Company picked up eight (8) PW's from various points along the route. After bivouacking here overnight, the march was continued behind Combat Command "R" through Warendorf, Germany, P2 (175725); Harsewinker, Germany, P2 (338740); Halle, Germany, P3 (428559); Hereford, Germany, P3 (640915); to bivouac in vicinity of P3 (683963) where we remained through 8 April. Reconnaissance Company (-) screening area picked up 131 PW's on 5 April, Company "A" reverted back to Battalion control in reserve. 1A was attached to Combat Command "R" to provide anti-tank protection for 695th F. A.

Company "A" attached to Combat Command "A" arrived in bivouac in the vicinity of Darup, Germany. The company had the platoons further attached as follows: 1A and Hq. section to Combat Command "A" Hq; 2A with 34th Tank Bn; 3A with 46th Armored Inf; on 2 April, Combat Command "A" with the mission of following Combat Commands "B" and "R", moved to the vicinity of Senden, Germany, P2 (830620). 2A supported the 34th Tank Bn. assault on Riltrup, Germany, P2 (930672). Combat Command "A" continued the march after bridging Dortmund, Germany, (Dortmund Bms Canal), and bivouaced in the vicinity of Everswinkel, Germany, P2 (078699); continuing the march from here Company "A" moved with Combat Command "A" to the vicinity of P3 (683963) arriving there on 5 April. Then Company "A" (-) platoon reverted to Battalion control and went into reserve. 1A was attached to Combat Command "R" to provide anti-tank protection for the 95th F. A.

Company "B" plus the Reconnaissance platoon were attached to Combat Command "B", the latter having the mission of attacking on the left flank of Combat Command "R" east toward the Weser River. On 1 April, the company was disposed as follows: Hq. section, 3B 1/2 mile northwest of Appelhausen, Germany, P2 (785669); 1B in the vicinity of Appelhausen, Germany; 2B 3/4 mile northwest of Appelhausen, Germany. At 1530 hours on 1 April, Company "B" (-) moved to the vicinity of Venne, Germany, P2 (870620). From Venne, Combat Command "B" using two Task Forces began attacking east. Company "B" (-) had the mission of providing anti-tank protection for the trains of Combat Command "B". 2B supported Task Force "A" and 1B supported Task Force "D". On 2 April, Company (-) moved to the vicinity of Rippelbaum, Germany, P2 (225810). 1B with Task Force "D" moved to the vicinity of Versmold, Germany, P2 (290825); 2B in the vicinity of Berghausen, Germany, P2 (370890) roadblocking with the infantry and anti-aircraft. Combat Command "B" continued the attack east toward the Weser River. The march was temporarily halted in the vicinity of Bahnhof Lohne P3 (874005) when slight enemy resistance was encountered. In action which took place, 2B knocked out one (1) unidentified tank, one (1)

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German scout car, six (6) 76mm artillery pieces, two (2) mortar positions captured, eight (8) PW's captured and an unknown number killed. They fired 9 rds. AP and 24 rds. HE 90mm. 1B roadblocked at Wulferdingsen, Germany, P3 (690060), and Volmerdingsen, Germany, P3 (710060). 2B after action then set up a roadblock overlooking the autobahn in the vicinity of P3 (752012); 3B remained with Company Hq. in reserve in the vicinity of Bahnhof Lohne P3 (674005). On 4 April, the Company moved to the vicinity of Grimminghausen, Germany, P3 (680040), where 3B set up an indirect fire position. The other platoons maintained roadblocks. On 5 April, 2B supported tanks and infantry in establishing a roadblock in the vicinity of Dehme, Germany, P3 (760050), guarding the road leading to Minden, Germany. Combat Command "B" was given the mission of taking Minden, Germany, but this was later changed after the British forces had entered the city. On 8 April, the entire company was assembled in the vicinity of Besebruch, Germany, P3 (680030).

On 1 April, Company "C" was attached to Combat Command "R" and supported them in the tactical mission of first; attacking east from the Rhine River to seize the bridges across the Dortmund-Ems Canal in the vicinity of Senden, Germany, P2 (830617) or Amelshiner, Germany, P2 (906658). 1C was supporting Task Force Boyer, 2A Task Force Hamburg. 3C was providing anti-tank protection for the 95th F. A. BN. Combat Command "R" jumped off and seized both Senden, Germany, and Amelshiner, Germany, but the bridges had been blown so the engineers bridged the canal at P2 (872685). Company "C" captured ten (10) PW's in this drive. Company "C" supported Combat Command "R" in the furtherance of the mission crossing the canal and swinging east and north. Resistance was moderate. 2C supporting 10th Tank Bn. marched with them closing in on Brölen, Germany, and setting up a road block in the vicinity of P2 (276698) and P2 (272695). 3C closed in in the vicinity of P2 (272726). Company "C" was located in the vicinity of P2 (271723). Combat Command "R" continued the attack north and east towards the Elbe River (north and east of Merford). The Jumford Canal was crossed in the vicinity of P2 (257747) and the attack continued. Only road blocks were encountered and these were being defended moderately. Supporting the attack of Combat Command "R", Company "C" knocked out one (1) German TD at P3 (581895) and another at P3 (595920). 2C continued the road block mission with 3C providing anti-tank protection for the 95th F. A. BN. 1C supporting Task Force Boyer captured eight (8) PW's, destroyed one (1) half-track, and one (1) probable anti-tank gun. Combat Command "R" was given the mission of seizing the bridges over the Weser River between P3 (760000) and P3 (930010). The entire company was attached to 10th Tank Bn. Company set up road blocks. 1C in vicinity of Bentorf, Germany, P3 (808900); 2C in vicinity of Nahesassen, Germany, P3 (830905); 3C in vicinity of P3 (805922); the mission of CCR was not a success as all the bridges had been blown. The company was assembled in the vicinity of Herdlebeck, Germany, P3

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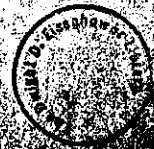
894) and remained there until 8 April, pending a further mission.

Period: 9 April to 16 April (Weser River to the Elbe River)

Battalion Hq., Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance Company (-) under Division Artillery control marched with them behind Combat Command "R". Left bivouac near Wittel, Germany, and moved to the vicinity of Pattensen, Germany, N4 (385095). Reconnaissance Company (-) screened the town, which had been bypassed by Combat Command "R". 114 PW's were picked up by the Reconnaissance Company in this vicinity. At this point, Combat Command "R" swung north and Combat Command "A" continued the attack east through Combat Command "R's" old area through Peine and east. Battalion Hq. continued the march with Division Artillery Hq. through Didderse, Neuendorf, and arrived in the area in the vicinity of Demker, Germany, N6 (797423). Reconnaissance Company (-) providing the rear guard for the Battalion trains encountered a small enemy patrol west of Deetz, Germany, N6 (865503) killing an estimated ten of the enemy. Then one (1) platoon of the Reconnaissance Company set up a road block in the vicinity of Elveredorf, Germany, N6 (810430). On 14 April, the Battalion (-) moved to Osterberg, Germany, N6 (716725). The Battalion (-) remained in this location until 16 April.

Company "A" was attached to Combat Command "A" on 9 April. Combat Command "A" had the mission of attacking north and east of Peine to the Elbe River in the vicinity of Stendal, Germany. The company dispositions were as follows: 1A and Hq. with Combat Command "A" Hq; 2A with 34th Tank Bn; 3A with 46th Armored Inf; On 9 April, Company "A" moved to Rethen, Germany, ten kilometers south of Hannover, Germany. On 12 April, 1A was attached to 557th F. A. BN. Other attachments remained the same. Combat Command "A" continued on their mission with Company "A" providing road blocks for the most part. Combat Command "A" attacked Tangermunde, Germany, N6 (870470). 3A supported this attack and lost one (1) M-36 Tank Destroyer due to Panzerfaust. One EM was killed, and two EM were wounded in this action. Company "A" also knocked out one (1) locomotive and eight (8) freight cars. After taking Tangermunde, Germany, N6 (795530) and vicinity. Company "A" captured 59 PW's while supporting the Combat Command on this mission. The company supported small task forces in reconnoitering the area around Stendal, Germany. No opposition was encountered. The company remained in this vicinity until 17 April.

Company "B" plus the Reconnaissance platoon attached to Combat Command "B" remained west of the Weser River until 10 April. Combat Command "B" had the mission of following between Combat Command "A" and Combat Command "R" in the attack east to the Elbe River. 2B supported Task Force "D" in the mission of guarding the bridge crossing at Hamelin, Germany, F4 (100900). The remainder of Combat Command "B" continued in reserve moving to the vicinity of Stederdorf, Germany, N4 (713200). The company moved on 11 April to

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to the vicinity of Grussendorf, Germany, N5 (0A428). On 12 April, the company (-) moved with Task Force "A" to an area two kilometers west of Jeetze, Germany, N6 (460560). The attached Reconnaissance platoon was left to guard the documents at the German experimental station in the vicinity of Leesien, Germany, N5 (030470). Combat Command "B" continued with Task Force "A" on the mission of moving east through Osterberg, Germany, N5 (720740) to the Elbe River. 1B with Task Force "A" set up road blocks in the vicinity of Osterberg, Germany. 2B with Task Force "B" moved from Hameln, Germany, to the vicinity of Brunau, Germany, to protect the Division CP but was relieved later in the day. Company "B" moved to Walterlage, Germany, N6 (770760). 2B moved into position with Task Force "D", one kilometer west of Busch, Germany, N6 (830730). On 15 April, 3B moved into a direct fire position on the Elbe River, west of Sandau, Germany, N6 (894970) and fired eight (8) rounds on church steeples. On 16 April the company was assembled and prepared for future operations.

Company "G" attached to Combat Command "R" began tactical mission on 8 April. Combat Command "R's" mission was to cut the road network east of Hannover, Germany, at Anderton, Germany, N4 (447202). When the mission began, 1G was with Task Force Boyer, and 2G and 3G were in reserve under company control. Combat Command "R" moved across the Weser River at Hameln, Germany, then north and east toward Gestorf, Germany, P4 (345040). After the Combat Command had crossed the Weser River, 2G was attached to the 10th Tank Bn., and 3G provided anti-tank protection for the 95th F. A. Bn. Upon reaching Gestorf, 1G went into position in the vicinity of Oine, Germany, P4 (373060); 2G in assembly vicinity of P4 (288040); 3G maintained a road block in the vicinity of P4 (375037). At this point the mission of Combat Command "R" was changed and they were to cut the autobahn in the vicinity of Reine, Germany, N4 (706185) and then attack north and east toward the Elbe River and try to secure bridges over the river. The company continued to support the Combat Command on the mission, the attachments remaining the same. Slight resistance was encountered in the vicinity of Velferds, Germany, N4 (443165). On 11 April, 2G supporting 10th Tank Bn. destroyed one (1) 88mm SP gun, forced the crew to abandon another, damaged one (1) general purpose vehicle, took four (4) PW's in the vicinity of Egnord, Germany; 3G had a road block mission in the vicinity of N4 (623102); 1G supporting 10th Tank Bn. set up a road block in the vicinity of Egnord, Germany, N4 (626134). The attack was continued north and east. 1G captured twelve (12) PW's, one (1) heavy truck, and two (2) trailers in the vicinity of N4 (772355). Combat Command "R" continued the attack to Gifhorn, Germany, N5 (910360). 1G supporting the 47th Armored F. A. Bn. destroyed one (1) flak gun and shot down one (1) ME109 in the vicinity of Gifhorn, Germany, and took 97 PW's in the vicinity of Rohrberg, Germany, N5 (235166) and took up a defensive position in the vicinity of Rohrberg. 2G supported 10th Tank Bn. and destroyed one (1) flak gun and inflicted an estimated 50 casualties

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on the enemy in the vicinity of Stockheim, Germany, N4 (203620); 30 destroyed one (1) passenger car while providing anti-tank defense for the 95th F. A. Bn. Combat Command "B" with two Task Forces abreast was to seize the bridge in the vicinity of Willenburge, Germany, M6 (705950); 10 supported 47th Armored Inf. and shot down one (1) Stuka Dive Bomber on 14 April. 20 supporting 10th Tank Bn. destroyed two (2) enemy half tracks and one (1) passenger car in the vicinity of Nettenburg, Germany; 30 continued to provide anti-tank protection for the 95th F. A. The company OP moved to M6 (673806). 10 took up direct fire position in the vicinity of Sandoran, Germany, M5 (888739) and fired 31 rounds 90mm HE at an OP in Sandau. 20 took up indirect fire positions in the vicinity of M6 (607886) in support of the 695th Armored F. A. Bn. They fired 120 rounds HE harassing concentrations. The company remained M6 (673806) until 16 April.

Period: 16 April to 30 April

Battalion Hq., Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance Company (-) moved with Division Artillery Hq. to Klotz, Germany, N5 (325534) and moved to Rohrberg, Germany, N5 (234616) on 18 April. The march was continued to Balzwedel, Germany, arriving there on 22 April where it remained until 27 April. The Battalion, with all the companies reverting back to its control, moved south and east of Peine, Germany, to the vicinity of Oberg, Germany, N4 (722093) and then to Wendezelle, Germany, N5 (814173) where the Battalion assumed military government duties under Division Artillery control and began maintenance and rehabilitation.

On 17 April, Combat Command "A" was relieved of the area in the vicinity of the Elbe River and moved to the vicinity of N5 (4428) preparing for future operations. Company "A" continued to support the Combat Command on missions. On 18 April, the entire company attached to 34th Tank Bn. moved and set up road blocks at Knesbeck, Germany, 5 miles south of Wittingen. On 19 April, they moved to Stienke, Germany, N5 (190483) and set up a road block. Combat Command "A" was given the mission of attacking north from Wittingen, Germany, N5 (030630) to the Elbe River in the vicinity of M5 (160160). On 21 April, Company "A" was disposed as follows: 1A with 46th Armored Inf.; 2A with 34th Tank Bn; 3A and Hq. with Combat Command "A" Hq. Company "A" supported Combat Command "A" in the attack north through Klenze. Opposition was very light. 1A supported 46th Armored Inf. in the attack on Hitzack, Germany, M5 (218110) and knocked out one (1) Mark IV tank and took 15 PW's; 2A remained in reserve with 34th Tank Bn; 3A set up a road block in the vicinity of Tollendorf, Germany, M5 (160100). Cleaning up operations continued until 26 April, when Company "A" reverted back to Battalion control and moved to Wolterf, Germany, N4 (760150) where motor maintenance and military government duties are being performed.

On 16 April, Company "B" plus the Reconnaissance platoon, moved with Combat Command "B" to the vicinity of Jubar, Germany, N5

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(112592) . Combat Command "B" had the mission of assisting in cleaning up a small enemy force which had broken through to the rear of the front lines and were harassing supply lines. Company "B's" CP was moved to Tangeln, Germany, N5 (210570); 1B in the vicinity of Rohrberg, Germany, N5 (230610); 3B in the vicinity of Wittingen, Germany, N5 (030630) performing road block missions; 2B remained in reserve. During the afternoon of 18 April, 1B set up a defense against armor reported moving from the direction of Ludelsen, Germany, N5 (175900). The enemy was encountered in the woods north of Ludelsen. 1B destroyed one (1) half-track, two (2) general purpose vehicles and one (1) Jagd panther tank. An unknown number of the enemy were killed. The company continued to set up road blocks in the vicinity of Hazelhorst, Tassenbeck, and Suderwittingen. 3B destroyed one (1) enemy half-track, and two (2) general purpose vehicles. On 24 April, the entire company was brought under company control. On 25 April, the company reverted back to Battalion control and moved to Munstedt, Germany, where the company set up military government and began an intensive motor maintenance program. On 29 April, the company moved to its present location in the vicinity of Zweidorf, Germany, N5 (800175), continuing military government duties and maintenance.

On 16 April, Combat Command "R" moved to the vicinity of Salzwedel, Germany, with the mission of cleaning up small enemy pockets, then attacking north through Luchow, Germany, to the Elbe River. Company "C" continued to support them providing anti-tank defense and setting up road blocks. 1C remained in reserve; 2B set up a road block in the vicinity of M5 (307800); 3C set up a road block in the vicinity of M5 (281791). The entire company was attached to 10th Tank Battalion. Combat Command "R" began the attack north with Task Force "H" moving north from Salzwedel, Germany, through Luchow, Germany, M5 (300910), north to Dannenburg, Germany, M5 (255055). Task Force "B" attacked north along the line from Salzwedel, Germany, to Luchow, Germany, then flanking Dannenburg in the vicinity of Neberstedt, Germany. Resistance was slight. 1C destroyed one (1) 88mm SP gun, and captured 44 PW's in the vicinity of M5 (273056). Company CP was located in Schaaflhausen, Germany, M5 (238023); 1C set up a road block in the vicinity of M5 (273056); 2C set up a road block in the vicinity of M5 (244052); 3C was located in the vicinity of M5 (216066). On 25 April, the company reverted to Battalion control and moved to Schmedenstedt, Germany, N4 (745726), where military government duties and an intensive motor maintenance program has begun.

H. Comments

Section I - Personnel Matters

(1) Morale and Discipline

Both morale and discipline during the month of April were

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excellent. During the first three weeks of the month, the tactical situation was such that fast movement and almost daily change of station was the result. A few movies were available and one USO show, but for the most part, the situation was such that very little Special Service work was possible. In typical American fashion, however, having a definite job to do and being kept busy by that job, the men found enough interest and excitement in the tactical situation so that additional morale activities were not needed. The last week of the month was used in getting settled and cleaned up, and the availability of adequate and comfortable housing facilities together with the resumption of Special Service facilities made possible the continued state of high morale and good discipline. Two Summary Courts Martials were tried early in the month for infractions of the disciplinary standards of the Battalion but no other infractions came up during the month. Both Protestant and Catholic Church services were held on the average of at least one service per week.

(2) Reinforcements

During the month of April 1945, the Battalion had comparatively few losses in personnel even though tactically committed for almost the entire month. Total battle casualties were three (3) officers LWA, one of whom returned during the month; one (1) EM KIA, and six (6) EM LWA, three of whom were evacuated. In addition, two (2) officers and nine (9) EM were evacuated as non-battle casualties.

Against these losses, one officer already mentioned, plus twelve (12) EM casuals returned to this organization plus eight (8) EM reinforcements. Four (4) of the reinforcements assigned were classified with an SSN 610, three (3) with SSN 844, while one (1) had an SSN 745. However, all eight (8) were assigned duties having an SSN 531. As for the AGCT scores of these eight (8) reinforcements, three (3) had scores between 62 to 64, three (3) were between 73 and 79, and two (2) had scores of 120. The three AGCT scores in the 60's were lower than the AGCT scores of reinforcements usually received, but will not materially effect the efficiency of the Battalion. In other respects all reinforcements received were easily absorbed and entirely satisfactory.

(3) Awards and Decorations

No awards or decorations were made during April, 1945.

Section II - Intelligence Matters

(1) a. The enemy forces encountered by this unit during the advance from the Rhine to the Elbe were consistently a conglomerate group of hastily collected troops formed from convalescents, stragglers,

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replacement battalions and the like. No units of divisional stature were encountered until the vicinity of the Elbe when Panzer Division, Von Clausewitz furnished the principal opposition. No special weapons or specially trained troops were encountered. The morale of the enemy troops was extremely low.

b. Enemy defenses were confined mainly to improvised log road blocks in towns or on the edge of woods. Natural obstacles were used occasionally combined with blown bridges. Few mines were encountered.

c. The enemy disposition of his troops was extremely disorganized and piecemeal. The enemy resorted to air employment very little. Armor was used for the most part by the employment of one or two tanks or SP guns to support the infantry. Division Von Clausewitz armor was largely destroyed in the woods by our artillery and air power and never massed any strength against our destroyers.

d. Enemy information and reconnaissance was poor. Most PW's claimed to have had no news as to our disposition for days and knew nothing as to the disposition of their own troops.

e. Terrain - rolling to flat; little marsh land with a good road net. Ideal for armored operations.

2. Enemy Personnel and Materiel Losses Inflicted During the Period.

Tanks:

one (1) Mark V
 one (1) Mark III
 one (1) Mark ? (type unknown)

SP Guns:

one (1) 88mm gun
 two (2) Jagd mm

AT Guns:

six (6) 76mm guns
 one (1) ? mm gun (probable)

General Purpose Vehicles:

cargo type (14)
 eight (8) command and staff cars
 nine (9) motorcycles
 one (1) fuel and truck trailer

Emplacements:

one (1) flak emplacement

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two (2) mortar emplacements

Planes:

one (1) ME109
one (1) Stuka Dive Bomber

Trains:

one (1) engine
eight (8) freight cars

Personnel:

captured: 29 officers; 1065 EM
killed : 210



Section III - Operations

No special problems arose during the month of April. For almost the entire period the companies were attached to the different Combat Commands. Tanks were met in neither organized units thereof, or in any great numbers. All odd tanks, half-tracks, armored cars and other miscellaneous vehicles met by this unit were destroyed, with a loss to this unit of only one destroyer, this being by panzer-faust. At no time during the period were enemy tanks encountered in sufficient numbers to warrant the employment of more than one Tank Destroyer company with any one Combat Command. The number of prisoners taken during the month was a reflection of the general route of the Wehrmacht all along the Western Front, more than a thousand having been rounded up by this unit. On 25 April, the companies reverted to Battalion control, and the entire Battalion was assigned a sector, under Division Artillery, to administer Military Government. The speed and ease with which this Battalion, a combat unit, made the transition from fighting to military government was excellent. The end of the period found the Battalion well on the way to completing the organizing of its own area; at the same time initiating the organizing of the remainder of Division Artillery's area, the rest of the Division Artillery's battalions at this time having not as yet been withdrawn from their firing positions near the Elbe River. The employment of the 506 radio with the firing companies proved very satisfactory in that the Battalion was able to maintain communication with the companies at almost all times, often at distances greater than forty miles.

Section IV - Supply and Maintenance Matters

Supply operations for the month of April 1945, were normal with supplies from the various branches of the services being quite stable. Ordnance replacements on the whole were readily obtainable.

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The Tank Destroyer Company was further reorganized by Change 4 to applicable Table of Organization and Equipment. Paper work was accomplished and some equipment was drawn relative to changes described.

Critical shortages which still exist, as of this date, are 1 ea. Truck, 1/4 ton, 4 x 4 and 1 ea. Tool Set, Battalion Crew, M10A1. This last named item has been short, for a number of months now, and is vitally needed for proper maintenance of tracked and semi-tracked vehicles within this unit.

The past month's maintenance has been of a normal trend. The Combat Commands have taken charge of the firing companies so that relatively little work on the track vehicles came into the Battalion Maintenance. There were a few jobs on the destroyers and some on the armored cars. Maintenance on the wheeled vehicles was the same as in previous months. There have been a few engine replacements and a good deal of work accomplished on electrical systems and braking systems. 1st Echelon care of the vehicles has been stressed and there has been a decided change for the better in this respect. At present, the big problem confronting us is procuring enough track to replace that worn out in the last drive. Several tanks now have new track and in the near future enough will be obtained to fill all our needs.

Section V - Civilian

Civilian morale appeared to be at a low ebb with a complacent acceptance of the inevitable victory of the allied forces. Our troops were received by civilians in a manner varying from sullen acceptance to servile obedience. No opposition was encountered from officials who either

- (1) cooperated
- (2) committed suicide

In either event the employment of our units was facilitated. In three separate instances, our wire was sabotaged by cutting, but no evidence was obtained as to whether the responsible parties were civilians or soldiers hiding in wooded areas which had not been cleared as yet by our infantry.



WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER
Lt. Col., F. A.,
Commanding

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