

~~SECRET~~

*File*



HEADQUARTERS  
774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403 US ARMY

1 May 1945

SUBJECT : After Action Report, Parl No. 1 (Operations)

TO : Commanding General, 94th Infantry Division, APO 94, US Army.

After nearly eight months of continuous combat employment with the Third US Army, beginning with the commencement of the drive across France and terminating with the capture of Ludwigshafen on the Rhine River, the Battalion was at the close of the previous period, enroute to an assembly area in the zone of the XXII Corps of the Fifteenth US Army, having been assigned to the Fifteenth US Army, attached to the XXII Corps and further attached to the 94th Infantry Division on 28 March 1945.

On 1 April 1945, prior to daylight, the bulk of the Battalion closed into assembly area at Huls, Germany, and at noon was attached to the 94th Inf. Div. Artillery and ordered to make reconnaissance for positions in which to perform secondary mission, positions to be occupied on Division Artillery orders, probably on or about 4 April 1945. Except for reconnaissance parties the remainder of the Battalion spent the day in the organization of the new location, installing communications, etc.

On 2 and 3 April 1945, selected gun positions were organized for occupation on 94th Division Artillery orders. The remainder of the Battalion continued maintenance and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

On 4 April 1945, Companies "A" and "C" occupied previously reconnoitered and prepared positions. Company "A" at A2612, Company "C" at A2498. The Battalion, less Companies "A" and "C" was given the mission of organizing and governing the locality of Huls, Germany. Reconnaissance Company was assigned the mission of patrolling the area of responsibility continuously day and night.

On 5 April 1945, Company "A" was ordered to reinforce the fires of the 301st FA Battalion and Company "C" was ordered to reinforce the fires of the 358th FA Battalion. Both Companies "A" and "C" made an attempt at registration but were unsuccessful because poor visibility rendered observation of bursts impossible. During the afternoon Company "C" moved one (1) gun to direct firing position on the west bank of the Rhine River in the vicinity of Nierat and fired two missions, one on a church steeple, used as an enemy OP, and one on water tank used as enemy OP and machine gun position. Results were that both targets were destroyed. Ammunition expenditure was: 42 rounds HE (90mm). The remainder of the Battalion continued patrolling and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

Company "A" fired fourteen (14) mission, on 6 April 1945, one (1) registration and thirteen (13) harrassing unobserved on targets east of the Rhine River in the western portion of the Ruhr pocket in the vicinity of Dusseldorf. Ammunition expended: 104 rounds 90mm HE. Company "C" failed to fire and spent the day in care and cleaning of equipment and materiel. The

~~SECRET~~

**S E C R E T**

remainder of the Battalion continued patrolling and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

On 7 April 1945, Company "A" fired seventeen (17) harrassing missions unobserved and two (2) observed missions, destroying one (1) enemy machine gun, expending 76 rounds of 90mm HE. Company "B" test fired three (3) new destroyers, M36, from positions on the west bank of the Rhine River near Kierst. Targets used for test firing were five (5) reported enemy machine gun nests. One enemy machine gun was destroyed and others probably destroyed. Expenditure of ammunition: 40 rounds, 90mm HE. Company "C" fired four (4) unobserved harrassing missions, expending 98 rounds 90mm HE. Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling area of responsibility.

On 8 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling in zone. Company "C" fired twelve (12) unobserved harrassing missions, expending 123 rounds, 90mm HE. The remainder of the Battalion was engaged in training and rehabilitation.

On 9 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling in zone. Company "A" fired twenty-six (26) unobserved harrassing missions expending 104 rounds 90mm HE. Company "C" fired nine (9) unobserved harrassing missions expending 106 rounds 90mm HE. The remainder of the Battalion initiated training schedule on subjects found not up to desired standards during combat.

Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling Battalion zone of responsibility. Continuing in support of the 356th FA Battalion, Company "A" fired thirty (30) unobserved harrassing missions expending 120 rounds 90mm HE. Company "C" continued to support the fire of the 301st FA Battalion and during the day fired fourteen (14) unobserved harrassing missions and one (1) observed mission on possible enemy gun positions with excellent results. Ammunition expended: 142 rounds 90mm HE.

The following also occurred during 10-11 April 1945: Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling Battalion zone of responsibility. Company "A" fired twenty (20) unobserved harrassing missions expending 80 rounds 90mm HE. Company "C" fired six (6) unobserved harrassing missions expending 66 rounds 90mm HE. Company "C" also expended 93 rounds 90mm HE direct fire on building from which two enemy 20mm guns were firing. As a result of this fire the buildings and presumably the enemy guns were destroyed. The remainder of the Battalion continued training as prescribed.

Company "B", on 12 April 1945, from position on west bank of Rhine River near Kierst, using one (1) gun, fired one mission on a reported enemy OP, expending 7 rounds 90mm HE. The enemy OP was destroyed. Company "A" fired no missions during the period. Company "C" fired six (6) unobserved harrassing missions, expending 67 rounds 90mm HE. Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling in Battalion zone. The remainder of the Battalion continued prescribed training.

On 13 April 1945 Reconnaissance Company was assigned the mission of patrolling in zone of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, Limburg, the north western portion of the area assigned to the 96th Infantry Division. Company "B" was given the responsibility of patrolling the village of Huls, Germany, upon relief of Reconnaissance Company of this mission.

*Restored*  
**S E C R E T**



S E C R E T

No firing was done by either Company "A" or Company "C". During the day's patrol, Reconnaissance Company apprehended one civilian without pass, and two (2) civilians suspected of theft of US Government property.

On 14 April 1945, at 1600, the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 94th Inf. Division Artillery and reverted to control of 94th Infantry Div. Company "C" fired ten (10) unobserved harrassing missions, expending 118 rounds 90mm HE. The remainder of the Battalion continued patrolling, followed training program, and enforced military government in zone.

On 15 April 1945, Reconnaissance Company, continuing patrolling in assigned zone apprehended two civilians without identification. Company "A" moved to assembly area in the vicinity of St. Hubert, A106104. Company "C" moved to assembly area in the vicinity of Stenden, A100144. At 1200H the Battalion was attached to the 376th Infantry, 94th Infantry Division and was given an area of approximately sixty (60) squaremiles to occupy, organize and govern.

On 16 April 1945 Reconnaissance Company was attached to the 302nd Infantry with the mission of maintaining four (4) stationary outposts and patrolling by motor the west bank of the Rhine east of Krefeld. The remainder of the Battalion maintained operation of motor patrols, continued training program and enforced military government in assigned zone. Seven (7) civilians were apprehended without proper identification. Six (6) of the seven were proven to be German soldiers and were delivered to the 94th Inf. Div. Prisoner of War cage.

The Battalion maintained patrols, enforced military government in zone and continued training program on 17 April 1945. Nine (9) displaced persons at large were picked up and delivered to Displaced Persons Camp in the vicinity of Kempen.

On 18 April 1945 Reconnaissance Company, attached to 356th FA Battalion, moved to assembly area in the vicinity of Munchen-Gladbach, 078917. The remainder of the Battalion continued enforcement of military government in zone, continued motor patrols and training program.

On 19 April 1945 the Battalion maintained motor patrols, enforced military government in zone and continued training program. Two (2) Prisoners of War were taken during the period. Two (2) displaced persons returned to DP Camp in the vicinity of Krefeld.

From 20 April 1945 to 22 April 1945 the Battalion continued motor patrols, and military government in zone. Five suspected German soldiers were delivered to CIC for screening. Reconnaissance for suitable assembly area in the vicinity of Ratingen was initiated by all companies.

On 23 April 1945 the Battalion was attached to the 301st Infantry for movement east of the Rhine River in the vicinity of Ratingen. The Battalion closed into new area and prepared to accept the responsibility for approximately 150 square miles of territory north of Dusseldorf, east of the Rhine River.

On 24 April 1945, at 1200, the Battalion assumed responsibility of military government in the area mentioned above. All companies made thorough reconnaissance in respective zones to locate enemy troops, abandoned materiel and ammunition and to establish suitable security guards and patrols.

*Restricted*

SECRET

On 25 April 1945, the Battalion continued military government in the assigned area. Continued reconnaissance revealed: Bridge at A33750125 prepared for demolition; large amount of explosives of all types at A337013, two (2) trucks 1 1/2 ton capacity loaded with AT mines at A361052; one (1) 88mm gun (destroyed) and ammunition at 40170521; 88mm Gun (destroyed) and ammunition at 40620563; three (3) AA searchlights at 42740600; two (2) food warehouses in Ratingen. Twelve (12) Prisoners of War were apprehended, all with discharges dated April, 1945 and were delivered to the 94th Div. PWE. A house to house search was initiated. Sixty (60) typhus cases were located in the area at hospital in Lintrop.

On 25 April 1945, the Battalion continued military government in zone. Twenty-five (25) ex-soldiers were apprehended and were taken to CIC for screening were determined as Prisoners of War and sent to the Division PWE. All companies established road blocks for control of civilian traffic and bridge guards were set up at critical places to prevent attempts at sabotage. Several minor cases of pillaging by displaced persons and foraging for food were reported in Battalion area. 172 Prisoners of War were apprehended during the day. Fourteen small DP camps were located in Battalion area with estimated population of 3000, principally Russians, but representing all European countries. Arrangements were made for opening one large DP camp in suitable site in southern part of area with intention of moving all displaced persons to this area camp as soon as practicable.

On 27 April 1945 the Battalion continued to police area and enforce military government. 37 PW's were apprehended and taken to 94th Div. PWE. Capt Lum A. Ingram, Hq., Co, was appointed Battalion DP officer and ordered to place large camp in operation as soon as possible.

On 28 April 1945 the Battalion continued house to house search, police and military government of zone. No unusual happenings during the day took place.

The Battalion continued to enforce military government in zone on 29 April 1945. 45 PW's were apprehended and delivered to the 94th Div. PWE. The Battalion's large DP Camp became operational and approximately 500 DP's were moved by captured vehicles to this area. Approximate strength of this camp estimated at 1500. The camp capacity estimated at 5000.

On 30 April the Battalion continued to enforce military government in zone. One (1) former Gestapo member was apprehended and delivered to CIC. Approximately 500 DP's were transported to large DP camp.



CONRAD B. STURGES  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

*Restricted*  
SECRET -4-

~~SECRET~~  
**HEADQUARTERS  
 774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
 APO 403 US ARMY**

1 May 1945

**SUBJECT :** After Action Report, Part No. 2 (Routine Activities and Data.)

**TO :** Commanding General, 84th Infantry Division, APO 94, US Army.  
 Attn: Historical Officer.

The 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP), organized under provisions of T/O and E 18-25, dated 15 May 1944, which authorizes a strength of 35 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 607 Enlisted Men, has assigned, as of the end of the period, 33 Officers, 2 Warrant Officer and 604 Enlisted Men. The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Conrad B. Sturges, O-282307 and key officers assigned are:

Major	Edward J. Bellamy	O-404603	Battalion Exec. O.
Major	Wade D. Jones	O-247538	Battalion S-3
Capt	Wilbur C. Anderson	O1822509	Battalion S-4
1st Lt.	Frank H. Mc Cartney	O1822297	Battalion S-2 and Acting Adjutant
Capt	Joe I. Elliott	O1822253	Battalion Motor Officer
Capt	Carl A. Black	O-278090	Commanding Co. "B"
Capt	Lum A. Ingram jr	O-410738	Commanding Hq. Co.
Capt	Joseph W. Rood	O-417338	Commanding Co. "A"
1st Lt	Lawrence A. Satterfield	O-1168398	Commanding Ren. Co.
1st Lt	Donald F. Polden	O-1822053	Commanding Co. "C"
Capt	Carson B. Murdy	O-416608	Battalion Surgeon



During the month of April, 1945, the following awards were made in the unit:

AWARDED SILVER STAR

Major	Wade D. Jones
1st Lt	Wayne L. Diltz
S/sgt	Walter Ranttila
S/Sgt	Lafayette H. Pellerin
Sgt	Sherman T. Norton
Sgt	Eugene A. Thorn jr.
Cpl	Harold W. Johnson (Post)
T/5	John D. Blair
T/5	Jack E. Feger
Pvt	Orville Owens

AWARDED BRONZE STAR

Capt	Joe I. Elliott
1st Lt	Archie H. Craig
1st Lt	Henry J. Balts jr.
1st Lt	Hick D. DeMaria jr.
S/sgt	Claude W. Horne
1st Sgt	Joseph F. Jackson
S/sgt	Ernest J. Robinson
Sgt	Martin J. McDonough
Sgt	Martin E. Urban
T/4	Louis H. Dumon
T/5	Marcel G. Gagnon
Pfc	Grover C. Fennell
Pfc	Albert A. Rene
Pfc	Robert E. Fricc

*Redacted*

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED  
 ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG  
 per SP115, ABCF  
 19 Oct 59



~~SECRET~~

The following named Enlisted Men were awarded Battlefield Commissions as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants during the month of April, 1945:

2nd Lt.	John J. Pendoley	02015636
2nd Lt	Ralph G. Coriell	02006634
2nd Lt	Joseph A. Bognanni	02006635



CONRAD B. STURGES  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED  
ORDER SEC ARMY BY HQAG  
per Smith, ABCK-  
19 Oct 59

**S E C R E T**

**HEADQUARTERS  
774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403 US ARMY**

1 May 1945

**SUBJECT : After Action Report, Part #3 (Accomplishment of Mission of Military Govt.)**

**TO : Commanding General, 94th Inf. Division, APO 94, US Army  
Attn: Historical Officer.**



The eastward crossing of the Rhine River on 24 April 1945 marked the close of actual combat in the European Theater for the Battalion and the beginning of the occupation of a badly battered and practically defeated German nation. This new mission, that of occupying, organizing and governing a section of the industrial Ruhr Valley, once termed the nerve center of the German Empire, was full of problems on which no previous training or instruction had been given.

Assigned the responsibility for an area containing roughly 150 square miles, the Battalion divided the area into four sectors and assigned to each Company the responsibility for a sector. In each Company area, upon verbal orders of the Battalion Commander, is appointed a military government officer whose duties are to work directly with the civilian head of government in their respective zones. These four officers are supervised by the Battalion Military Government Officer at Battalion Headquarters, who, in addition to supervising each Company Military Government Officer, controls the government of the largest town in the Battalion area, and keep the Battalion Commander informed of conditions in the area.

Proper care of displaced persons is a major problem. Upon occupation of the area a survey was made of the area and it was discovered that in the area were 14 small displaced persons camps containing approximately 3000 people, representing practically every country in formerly occupied Europe. Living and sanitary conditions in these small camps were without exception, deplorable, diseased, particularly with typhus rampant, and the occupants were forced to ravage the countryside to obtain food.

Attempting to remedy the above situation the Battalion appointed a displaced persons officer, selected a suitable site, a former German garrison with facilities to handle an estimated 5000 people, placed this officer in charge and is now well advanced in the process of moving all displaced persons to the camp where they will be cared for in the best manner possible.

Services rendered by the unit in its governing mission includes:

1. Caring for the needs and protecting displaced persons.
2. Locating and removing enemy ammunition and demolitions - a menace not only to our troops but to the civilian populace as well.
3. Establishment of guards on food stocks to insure equal distribution.
4. Imprisonment of Gestapo and Nazi party members whose presence cause a feeling of unrest among the majority of the people.

*Restricted*  
**S E C R E T**

**CONRAD B. STURGES**  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding