

[REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM
8th TANK DEFENSE BATTALION
APO 39

3 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with AF 343-105 the following report is submitted for the month of February:-

1 Feb - Co A moved 0900h to En via HERN.

Co B moved 2nd Inf Div via BUN.

Co C moved 99th Inf Div East of HERN.

All companies occupied AF positions and were well dug-in with overhead cover.

2nd platoon of Co A was ordered to move into positions via HERN. The area which they were to occupy being completely covered with AF mines, secondary positions were immediately established.

The 2nd platoon of Co A moved to a mobile reserve position via Co CF.

2 Feb - Co B moved to an assembly area via BUN.

Co A lost one (1) soldier in a minefield via HERN. 1st platoon occupied AF positions via ALIN.

3 Feb - The En received orders relieving it from the 99th Inf Div and attaching it to the 3rd TD Co in Corps Reserve.

Co A moved to an assembly area via HERN.

Co C relieved from the 99th Inf Div, moved to an assembly area via HERN.

Two (2) M of Co A were killed by enemy anti-personnel mines.

4 Feb - The En moved to an assembly area via HERN. Orders received from First Army attaching the 8th Tank Defense Battalion to the Ninth Army, further attachment to the XIX Corps.

5 Feb - While in assembly area, care and cleaning of equipment was the primary function. Moving pictures were shown to personnel in the evening.

6 Feb - No change in situation.

7 Feb - The routes of march and march orders were given to the Company Commanders. All identification was removed from vehicles. The Battalion passed the IP at 1900, destination, vicinity ACHN.

8 Feb - The Battalion moved in an assembly area, via of BUN, Germany at 0200. All troops were billeted in houses, vehicles were well dispersed in areas.

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(Cont'd. Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports. 3 March 1953).

The Battalion CO received orders from the 2nd TD Group regarding installing plans for a forthcoming operation.

Company Commanders were ordered to make reconnaissance in assigned sectors for anti-tank defenses.

9 Feb to 17 Feb - During this period the personnel of the Battalion were occupied with the care and cleaning of material. Mines were requisitioned and small arms and anti-tank weapons were fired.

The Company Commanders and Platoon Leaders constantly made reconnaissance for anti-tank positions to complete the concerted plans the Battalion had made for future operations. Special reconnaissance was included.

On the 17th of February, the CO of the 2nd TD Group ordered reconnaissance for indirect firing positions to support Corps Artillery. The Battalion CO, 2-3 and the Company Commanders made this reconnaissance and located positions in the area of ALDRECHEN.

18 Feb - 19 Feb - Consolidation of indirect fire positions with emplacements and fire direction centers were begun and lined with sand bags. Tripflares and mines were laid to each battery.

20 Feb - Each company placed the gun and crew in position for the purpose of registration. As a result of the mission to support the 50th Infantry Division B and C Companies, the 2nd Infantry Division. All fire missions were to come from Corps Artillery.

21 Feb - A, B, and C Companies occupied the indirect fire positions. Tripflares and guns were installed in the positions at thirty minute intervals. The forward CP set up in ALDRECHEN. B and C Companies occupied 24 rounds HE.

22 Feb - Co A registered, occupying 11 rounds HE.

23 Feb - A schedule of fire was received from Corps by the 2nd Fire Control Center and broken down for the company fire direction centers. The 2nd CO to fire 200 rounds per hour from 1500 to 1800. However, at 1600 B Company was to be prepared to support the 29th Infantry Division in its area. In this unit, B Company was ordered to "close station, hold order" at 1600. Four (4) "shots" were issued by the 2nd FA Bn to pull guns from positions. Companies A and C continued scheduled until 1730, at which time, Company went on a schedule of 100 rounds per hour until 1800, while Company C fired 20 rounds per hour until 1800. Company B, though prepared to support the 29th Infantry Division, as ordered, was never called upon to execute order and was released from the 29th Division at 1600 but remained assigned.

An order received from Corps April way for a firing to come at 1800. All 3rd HE rounds should have been fired by command of Army CO.

24 Feb - Orders received from 2nd TD Group to reposition anti-tank positions on the east side of the river near to houses the anti-tank defense in the Corps zone of action. Company Commanders were assigned sectors and designated units. At 1600 hours crossings crossing from the Company Commanders were consolidated and a plan was immediately drawn and submitted to the CO, 2nd TD Group.

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Order of Battle, 11th Cavalry Group, 25th Infantry Division, 5 March 1953.

At 0800 the Battalion was alerted to the 11th Cavalry Group (attached to 25th Infantry Division).

15 Feb - The Battalion less Co. C occupied the Bear River in the 25th Infantry Division Zone. Co A occupied positions of all defenses in the vicinity of HEDGECOCK. The Battalion night flank with fields of fire to the east and southeast. Co B occupied positions in the vicinity of KENTWOOD; the southern flank of the Division Zone, which also affected both Co A. Co C remained in mobile reserve in the vicinity of PIER.

16 Feb - Co B occupied anti-tank positions along highway between WINTERBACH and SPAINBACH, with fields of fire to the northeast.

Co C moved across the Bear River and occupied anti-tank positions east of BARNICH, where one man was seriously injured by an enemy mine.

17 Feb - Co C moved to vicinity of STINEBACH and occupied anti-tank positions with the mission of direct support to the 11th Cavalry Group. The 1st Platoon occupied original indirect fire positions with the mission of placing fire in the town of HEDGECOCK, shellacked upon by the 11th Cavalry Group.

Co A moved to assembly area in the vicinity of CUSTIN and was placed on alert for immediate support in direct support of the 11th Cavalry Group.

Co B moved to positions covering road blocks in the vicinity of GRINER.

20 Feb - About 0130 patrols from the 11th Cavalry Group reported HEDGECOCK was used by the enemy. At 0200 hours Co A occupied anti-tank defense positions in the vicinity of this village.

Co B moved to the vicinity of FRANKENBACH and occupied indirect fire positions. At 1500 they received orders to change to direct fire positions. No mission were received until in secondary role.

Co C alerted the 1st Platoon to move into positions in the vicinity of HEDGECOCK. The 2nd Platoon was alerted to move in the vicinity of LIP.

R. J. McKenna

R. J. MCKENNA
Major, 11th Cavalry
Commanding