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Dep

HEADQUARTERS
803d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. Army

SECRET
AUTH: CG 5th INF DIV
INIT: GRK
DATE: 2/5/45
SECRET

30 April 1945

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

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

Forwarded herewith, Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports, for this command, covering the period 1 - 30 April 1945.

Charles W. Goodwin
CHARLES W. GOODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

7 Incls:

- 1 Appendix No. 1 to Action Against Enemy, Reports After/after Action Report.
- 2 S-1 Journal
- 3 S-1 Journal File
- 4 S-2 Journal
- 5 S-2 Journal File
- 6 S-3 Journal
- 7 S-3 Journal File

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report
Headquarters, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion

Period: 1 - 30 April 1945

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1. Original Unit: 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (No change)
2. Changes in organization. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
3. Strength:
 - A. 1 April 1945, 37 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 587 Enlisted Men.
 - B. 30 April 1945, 38 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 587 Enlisted Men.
 - C. Net Change: Increase of 1 Officer.
4. Action: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
5. Marches: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
6. Campaigns: Operations covering period 1st - 30 April 1945.
7. Battles: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
8. Commanding Officers:
 - A. Battalion Commander - Lt. Col. C. W. Goodwin, Inf.
Headquarters Company - Captain R. S. Wagenhals, Inf. (Captain R. F. Sinclair, Inf.)
Reconnaissance Company - Captain A. J. Burke, Cav.,
Company "A" - Captain J. R. Kruszewski, FA., (Captain R. S. Wagenhals, Inf),
Company "B" - Captain C. H. Brittain, Cav., (Captain J. E. Skowis, Inf).
Company "C" - 1st Lt. E. J. Kruszewski, FA.,
 - B. Captain J. R. Kruszewski, rel'd of Command Company "A", 1300 hour, 14 April 1945.
Captain R. S. Wagenhals, rel'd of Command HQ Company, 1300 hour, 14 April 1945
and asgd Commanding Officer, Company "A", 1300 hour, 14 April 1945.
Captain R. F. Sinclair, asgd Commanding Officer, HQ Company, 1300 hour, 14 April 45
Captain C. H. Brittain, rel'd of Command Company "B", 1300 hour, 15 April 1945.
Captain J. E. Skowis, asgd Commanding Officer, Company "B", 1300 hour, 15 April 1945
9. Losses in action. (Battle Casualties).
 - A. Officers:
None.
 - B. Enlisted Men:

Dwight A. Hieko, 37153412, Sgt., FA	KIA	12 April 1945 - Status Fr MIA 7 Sept 44 to KIA 7 Sept 44.
Max E. Howard, 39676961, S/Sgt., FA	SMA	12 April 1945
10. Awards:

Silver Star - Below named O, per Sec. II, GO 30, HQ 5th Inf. Div., dtd 8 April 1945.
1st Lt. Russell B. Hendricks, O-1998343

Bronze Star - Below named EM, per Sec. IV, GO 31, HQ 5th Inf. Div., dtd 11 April 1945.
PFC J. P. Davis, 34349976

Silver Star - Below named EM, per Sec. I, GO 33, HQ 5th Inf. Div., dtd 17 April 1945.
Sergeant Thomas L. Mougson, 39165355
Sergeant Edward D. Pillsbury, 39079065

11. Photographs: None.

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Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Report
Headquarters, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion
April 1945

010081 April 1945
Frankfurt, Germany

- 1 April 1945** Battalion less companies "A" "B" "C" and Rcn attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Frankfurt, Germany (M672706). "A" Company attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company attached to 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company attached to the 11th Infantry Regiment. Companies "A" "B" and "C" have assembled vicinity of Frankfurt, Germany conducting maintenance on vehicles and preparing to advance with their respective CT's. Rcn Company was given the mission of reconnoitering area vicinity of WOLLSTADT Germany for reported enemy activity. Also captured 6 PW's. All companies have been given a 2 hour alert warning. 32 - M36's operational.
- 2 April 1945** Battalion less companies "A" "B" "C" and Rcn attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Frankfurt, Germany (M672706). "A" Company attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company attached to 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company attached to the 11th Infantry Regiment. Rcn Company attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "A" Company supported the 2nd Infantry in mopping up enemy pockets of resistance. One platoon of Company "C" moved with the 5th Cav Rcn Troop its mission of mopping up enemy pockets. This platoon was attached to the 2nd Infantry effective 1030B. Battalion expended 15 rds HE and 1 rd AP (90mm), 3 rds HE (37mm) and 1000 rds .50 caliber ammunition during the period against enemy infantry and enemy occupied houses. Rcn Company took 8 PW's during the period. 32 - M36's operational.
- 3 April 1945** Battalion less companies "A" "B" "C" and Rcn attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Frankfurt Germany (M672706). "A" Company attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company attached to 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company attached to the 11th Infantry Regiment. Rcn Company attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment. Company "A", 1 platoon of "C" Company and Rcn Company supported the 2nd Infantry in mopping up enemy pockets of resistance. At the close of the period Rcn Company held positions in the vicinity of BURG BRACH and during the period patrolled the road between MEREKFRITZ and ALLENROD (NO59973). Remainder of battalion remained in assembly area performing maintenance operations on equipment. "C" Company expended 22 rds HE and 1100 rds .50 caliber ammunition against enemy infantry during the period. 30 - M36's operational.
- 4 April 1945** Battalion less companies "B" and "C" (-1 plat) attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Frankfurt, Germany (M672706). "A" Company was detached from 2nd Infantry Regiment as of 2000 hours. "B" Company attached to 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company less 1 platoon attached to 11th Infantry Regiment. 1 platoon of "C" Company detached from 2nd Infantry Regiment effective as of 2000B hours. Rcn Company detached from 2nd Infantry Regiment effective as of 2000B hours. Company A, 1 platoon Company "C" and Rcn Company moved with the 2nd Infantry to assembly area closing at 2000B. Upon closing these elements reverted to battalion control. Remainder of battalion remained in assembly area performing maintenance operations on equipment. Rcn Company intercepted an enemy patrol that infiltrated into the town capturing 4 and killing 3 of them. 29 - M36's operational. Division was detached from IX Corps effective 1200 B and passed to direct control of THIRD US ARMY in army Reserve.

- April 1945 Battalion less 2 platoons of "C" Company attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Muschenheim Germany (0750101). "C" Company less 1 platoon attached to 11th Infantry Regiment. Company "B" moved with the 10th Infantry to assembly area closing prior to 1210B. Company reverted to battalion control upon closing into assembly area. Remainder of units continued to perform maintenance operations on equipment. Battalion CP moved to Muschenheim (0750101) opening in the new location at 1600B. Ron Company captured 6 Prisoners of War, 28 - M36's operational.
- 6 April 1945 Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Muschenheim Germany (0750101). "C" Company less 1 platoon was detached from 11th Infantry Regiment as of 1200 B hours, reverted to battalion control. Ron Company operating under Division control patrolled the area between the towns of WEZLAR (0544175) and MARBURG (0730460). Elements of the battalion continued to perform maintenance operations on equipment. A late report came in that "A" Company had captured 19 PW's. Headquarters Company captured 1 PW during the period. 30 - M36's operational.
- 7 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Muschenheim Germany (0750101). All companies under battalion control. Companies "A" and "B" remained in position performing maintenance and conducting training. "C" Company moved to the vicinity of GAMBACH (0703076) during the period. Ron Co continued to patrol the area NW of the Division assembly area. Division and this organization less 11th CI was alerted at 2135B for movement to the III Corps area and advance parties left at 2300B for III Corps CP. 30 - M36's operational.
- 8 April 1945 Battalion less companies "A" and "B" and "C" attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Muschenheim Germany (0750101). Companies "B" and "C" attached to 10th Infantry Regiment, effective 0600B and Company "A" attached to the 2nd Infantry Regiment effective 0600B moved with the CI's to the new Division assembly area. Remainder of battalion remained in position during the period. Division was attached to the III Corps, First U, S. Army effective 1300B and passed to control of that Corps. 30 - M36's operational.
- 9 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Elleringhausen Germany (0562048). Companies "A", "B" and "C" were detached from their respective regiments and reverted to battalion control effective 1800B. Companies "B" and "C" occupied positions in direct support of the 10th Infantry Regiment with Company "A" in general support of Division Area. Companies maintained anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area during the period. Battalion CP moved to the vicinity of Elleringhausen opening in the new location at 1900B. Division completed movement to new Division assembly area vicinity Olberg with all units closing prior to 1830B. 16 destroyers (M36's) were deadlined or fell out of column during the march because of the fast rate of speed the convoy traveled. Bogies and track trouble was the reason for such. 15 - M36's operational.
- 10 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Elleringhausen Germany (0562048). "A" Company in general support of Division Area. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. Companies supported the Division in its attack to the West and continued to maintain anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area. 3rd platoon of "B" Company fired 4 rds HE at Volkstrum troops that were dug-in. Deadlined M36's are being repaired. 22 - M36's operational.
- 11 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of (0376045). "A" Company direct support of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company general support of Division Area. Companies continued to support their respective CI's in their attack to the West and maintained anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area. Battalion expended 53 rds HE ammunition during the period destroying 2 vehicles and killing enemy personnel. "C" Company captured 22 PW's. Division continued the attack to the West attacking at 0730B hours. 11 - M36's operational.

- 11 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of (8976045). "A" Company direct support of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of the 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company general support of Division Area. Companies continued to support their respective CT's in their attack to the West and maintaining anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area. "A" Company took 1 Prisoner of War. The 1st platoon of "B" Company fired 3 rds HE direct fire at enemy in houses. "C" Company is guarding the left flank of Division Area. Battalion CP Group moved to vicinity of Berge Germany leaving at 1030B and opening CP in new area by 1100B. 31 - M36's operational.
- 13 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Berge Germany. "A" Company direct support of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of the 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company general support of Division Area. Companies continued to support their respective CT's in their attack to the West and maintained anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area. 1st platoon of "A" Company fired 35 AP and 15 HE and knocked-out 2 Mark V tanks, 1 SP gun and 1 20mm gun vicinity H160178. "C" Company is guarding Division flanks. Recon Company relieved Group A of 32nd Cav Group. They will place road blocks at the following points allowing no displaced persons to pass through until they have been screened. No Germans will be permitted to pass: a. H296040 where persons will be turned toward Visbeck. b. B342044 where persons will be turned toward Kalle. c. H280110 where persons will be turned toward Arnberg. Headquarters Company moved to vicinity of Berge Germany. 6 PW's were captured during the period. Battalion CP moved to new location vicinity Rehre opening in new location at 1400B. 32 - M36's operational.
- 14 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Rehre Germany (H196019). "A" Company direct support of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of the 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company direct support of the 11th Infantry Regiment. Companies continued to support their respective CT's in the attack to the Northwest. "B" Company captured 1 PW of Captain rank. "C" Company captured 5 PW's during the period. 32 - M36's operational.
- 15 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in the vicinity of Rehre Germany (H196019). "A" Company direct support of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company general support of Division Area. "C" Company direct support of the 11th Infantry Regiment. Company "C" continued to support 11th CT in its attack to the Northwest. Remainder of battalion less Company "B" performed maintenance operations on equipment. Company B in general support of the Division Area guarded the Division left flank. Battalion CP displaced to vicinity (B045144) opening at 1500B. 10 PW's were taken during the period. 1st platoon of "B" Company fired 7 rds HE into the town of Vooswinkel. Headquarters Company moved to the vicinity of Hachen Germany closing in by 1230B. 33 - M36's operational.
- 16 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Menden Germany (B045145). "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company in general support of Division Area. "C" Company direct support of the 11th Infantry Regiment. Battalion remained in position performing maintenance operations on equipment and maintaining anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area. HQ Co. took 1 PW. 36 - M36's operational.
- 17 April 1945 Battalion detached from 5th Division Artillery effective 172400B. and attached to 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration, but will remain under control division artillery for training. Companies remained in position during the period performing maintenance operations on equipment. Reconnaissance Company moved to vicinity of Menden Germany near the battalion CP. "C" Company took 17 PW's. No ammunition expended during the period. 35 - M36's operational.

- 18 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically located in vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Battalion moved to the vicinity of RAMSBECK (B465014) relieving elements of the 14th Cavalry Group in its mission of guarding important installations and maintaining law and order in that area by 1400B. Battalion opened in the vicinity of Ramsbeck at 1700B, 35 - M36's operational.
- 19 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically located in vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Guards were placed on all installations. A reconnaissance and plans for patrols and check points were made during the period. Battalion remained in position guarding important installations and maintaining law and order in the battalion area.
- 20 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration located vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Companies continued to maintain check points and patrols. Local Burgomasters in the various areas were contacted. A sizeable number of displaced persons were handled. Allied PW and DP camps were located and a thorough reconnaissance was made of the entire area, during the period. Battalion continued to guard important installations, screened displaced persons and maintained law and order in the area.
- 21 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration located vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Companies continued to maintain check points and patrols throughout the area. Regulated and distributed displaced persons in the area. Contacts were made as well as an investigation of 2 hospitals. An U.S. Officer is in charge of a German Hospital located at Heringhausen (B4203). This hospital contains 265 wounded Germans, 31 German Medics and 6 DP's. The food situation supply has been exhausted and the officer in charge stated the patients have lost an average of 14 lbs in past two weeks. 3 days rations for all German PW's was drawn and issued to this hospital today. There is no electric power at the hospital because the underground cable has been cut by a bomb. This power is badly needed in order to properly operate the hospital. The Military Government officer at Meschede is being contacted in an effort to get cable repaired. Some Medical supplies are needed and have been reported to Division Surgeon. The officer in charge was contacted at the hospital at Bigge Germany (B514067). This hospital contains 553 wounded German PW's, 17 German Medical Officers, 21 German Army Nurses and 27 German Medical enlisted men. 17 of these patients will be ready for discharge in the next 3 days. The food supply is adequate. The U.S. officer in charge may need to call on U.S. forces here for transportation to haul food from near by towns. This hospital is using only civilian food. Medical supplies are adequate. 363 DP's were evacuated to DP camps during the period. Battalion continued to guard important installations, screened displaced persons and maintained law and order in the battalion area.
- 22 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically, located vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Companies continued to maintain check points and patrols through out the area. Regulated and distributed displaced persons in the area. Four (4) additional allied PW camps were established at G313904, G342959, G615996 and G555962. A guard was placed on the hospital at G999951. Battalion continued to guard important installations, screened displaced persons and maintained law and order in the battalion area.

- 23 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration, located vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Companies continued to maintain check points and patrols through out the area. Regulated and distributed displaced persons in the area. 1 additional DP camp located at (B481080). (50 Russians). About 0930 yesterday when 1 truck drove up to the PWE at Brilon Germany to load up the prisoners they all made a break for the truck each one trying to get in. A few rounds of .50 caliber ammunition was fired over their heads which brought things under control again. Elements of the 898th FA Bn and 730th FA Bn (75th Inf Div) completed relief of the TD Bn prior to 2000B and the battalion assembled in position upon completion of the relief. Operations Memorandum No. 82 came down from Division showing the composition of columns and order of march for our move to vic of Frankfurt and Hanau. Instructions shows us as SHAEF Reserve and assigned to TUSA.
- 24 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration, located vicinity of Ramsbeck Germany (B465015). Division including this unit is in SHAEF Reserve for the present. First U.S. Army is responsible for the movement of Division and attachments to the south and east. Battalion after being relieved by elements of the 75th Infantry Division remained in position during the period preparing to move to the south.
- 25 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration, located vicinity of Nieder Wollstadt Germany (M737872). Battalion moved during the period crossing the IP vicinity of SIEGEN Germany at 1440B closing in position vicinity Nieder Wollstadt at 2200B. A few of the destroyers fell out of column due to bogie trouble and gas line trouble, but later arrived at this point.
- 26 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration, located vicinity of Nieder Wollstadt Germany (M737872). Battalion crossed IP at 1200B moving from the vicinity of NIEDER WOLLSTADT (M737872) to the vicinity of STAFFELBACH (O-163540) closing into the new area at 2230B.
- 27 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division tactically and for administration, located vicinity of Staffelbach Germany (O-163540). Battalion CP, Hq, Co., Recon Co. and "C" Co. assembled in the town of Staffelbach. "A" and "B" companies assembled in the town of Unterhaid. 9 destroyers made the trip and are operational at this time. Others were delayed along route because of bogie and track trouble. Battalion reverted back to control of 5th Division Artillery as of 1700B hours. 9 - M36's operational.
- 28 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Division Artillery located in vicinity of Staffelbach Germany (O-163540). Companies are performing maintenance operations on vehicles that are at their respective locations. 23 destroyers are yet to reach their destination. Movement orders came down from higher headquarters giving the assembly area as vicinity of Regen Germany. Plans and preparations are being made for the move at this time. All companies remained in position during the period. 23 - M36's operational.
- 29 April 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Division Artillery located in vicinity of Staffelbach Germany (O-163540). All companies continued to perform maintenance operations on all vehicles and equipment in preparation for move enroute with Division to vicinity of Regen Germany. Movement to the new assembly area began at 1215B hours passing IP vicinity of Bamberg and closing in new area vicinity of Neudorf Germany by 300830B. At start of movement to the south and east battalion had 32 - M36's operational.

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30 April 1945 Upon arrival in new area the battalion was attached to 5th Infantry Division and located in the vicinity of Neudorf Germany (Q174436). "A" Company upon arrival was attached to 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company upon arrival was attached to 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company upon arrival was attached to 11th Infantry Regiment. 8 destroyers had reached this destination at the close of the period. Others fall out of column enroute because of bogie and track trouble. Arrangements have been made for ordnance to repair these destroyers as quickly as possible so they can reach their destination. 8 - M36's operational.

SUMMARY

- A. Operations for the period consisted mostly of cleaning up isolated spots of resistance and the evacuation and handling of Prisoners of War. The German Army, on this front, has practically ceased being any kind of a fighting unit. There seems to be no control by high command. Large groups up to and including Corps have surrendered with very little fight. Unless tactical reserves can be brought in to establish a defensive line we can move forward with little resistance.
- B. In the past two and one-half months the battalion has traveled fourteen hundred miles. Five hundred of these miles has been covered in the last seven days. This has put an extreme strain on equipment and maintenance.
- C. The battalion has expended 114 rounds 90MM HE, 36 rounds 90MM AP on direct fire missions during period. Equipment destroyed is as follows: Mark V Tank - 2; S.P. - 1; 20MM - 1; Enemy killed (estimate) - 175; PW's - 565.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. It has been found that the chevron type steel track on the M36 Tank Destroyer does not hold up on long marches. This track causes excessive strain on suspension systems and excessive wear on idlers and track support rollers. It is recommended that the steel track be replaced by the chevron type rubber track. The one rubber track destroyer in the battalion has had no suspension system trouble in the last three marches which covered five hundred miles.

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