

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS  
EIGHTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 803, U. S. ARMY

[REDACTED]

6 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 30 April 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

FROM : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the Eighth Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1-30 April 45.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Clem Hux*  
CLEM HUX,  
2d Lt, FA (TD),  
Adjutant.

MAY 1945

[REDACTED]

5-1-45  
E. W. R.

SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

From 01 0001 Apr 45 to 30 2400 Apr 45

During the month of April, the 811th TD Bn remained attached to the 60th Inf Div with one firing company attached to each infantry regiment. Only exception was from 21 April to 27 April 45, at which time Companies A and C were attached to 3d Cav Gp.

1-5 April 1945

From the 1-5 April 1945 the Battalion encountered stiff opposition in its coordinated attack with the 60th Inf Div against the Div objective of KASSEL (C2304). This resistance consisted of tanks supported by infantry. It was during this period (1 Apr 45) that Company B, 811th TD Bn, lost six (6) L-18's. Although this was a terrific blow to the Battalion, other units of the Battalion were called upon and succeeded in destroying the enemy tanks. On 1 April 45 units were located as follows: Bn CP and Recon Co at HOLZHAUSEN (H185710); Hq & Hq Co at REBELSDORF (H1154); Company A - ZEIGERHAIN (H0559); Company B in OBERMOLLNICH (H105825); Company C - MILBERSHAUSEN (H106810). At the end of this five day period (5 Apr 45) the Div objective of KASSEL (C2304) had been taken and Companies were in the following places: Bn CP - HERBERSHAUSEN (H100176); Hq & Hq Co - HOLZHAUSEN (H185710); Recon Co - VOLLERSHAUSEN (H170875); Company A - KASSEL (C2304); Company B - KASSEL (C2304); Company C - KRULDACH (H150809).

After the loss of the L-18's on 1 April 45, Company B, 803d TD Bn, was attached to the Battalion on 5 April 45. However, this Company was relieved of this attachment on 8 April 45 without having been committed.

6-10 April 45

On 6 April 45 the Battalion received a warning order of the relief of the 60th Inf Div and attached troops, and of a proposed movement to the southeast.

Accordingly, on 4 April 45 the Battalion advanced to the vicinity of [redacted] (J455085) and units were in the following locations: Hq Co, [redacted] Co, Ren Co and Co C in [redacted] (J0005); Co A in [redacted] and Co B in [redacted] (J1103). During this period, the firing companies continued their advance with CP's of the 60th Inf Div without determined opposition. At the close of the period units of the Battalion had reached the approaches to the city of [redacted] (J3171) where the enemy had set up defenses and was offering fanatical resistance. The enemy sought to defend key terrain features; chiefly towns that were favorably located.

11-16 April 45

The Battalion continued its advance southeastward with Hq CP at [redacted] (J455085), Hq & Hq Co (Rr) in [redacted] (J0005), Ren Co - [redacted] (J3308); Co A - [redacted] (J3171); Co B - [redacted] (J05770) and Co C at [redacted] (J0103). This period was characterized by the capture of a large number of prisoners and by 16 April 45, the units of the Battalion had reached the outskirts of [redacted]. Upon reaching the vicinity of [redacted] the 60th Inf Div and attached troops were relieved in that zone and prepared to move south. On 16 April 45 the firing companies were relieved of attachment to the infantry regiments and reverted to Battalion control. The Battalion then moved to an assembly area with Hq CP at [redacted] (K003002), Hq & Hq Co (K003645), Ren Co (K00054), Co A (J998078), Co B (K029018), and Co C (J990635) as a preparation for movement to new Div boundaries.

19-21 April 45

On 19 April 45, the Battalion moved a distance of one hundred and fifty miles (150) to vicinity of [redacted] (0344013) where the Battalion went into bivouac. The 20th and 21st April 45 was spent on maintenance of vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel.

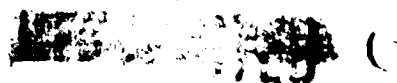
24-26 April 45

On 24 April 45, the 8th Armored Division was alerted for action. The Battalion remained in bivouac area for vicinity SICKHART (U279109). From 25 April 45 until 27 April 45, at which time the Battalion reverted to its control, with Co A at FELDENDORF (U279109) and Co C in WILMERS (U279109). From 21-22 April 45, the Bn (less Co A & C) was engaged in maintenance of vehicles, rehabilitation of personnel and refreshment for new replacements. On 23 April 45 the Battalion (-) moved to WERBING (U279109) where they remained until 27 April.

27-30 April 45

On 27 April 45 the 8th Armored Division was again called into action. At 27 April 45 the Battalion (-) moved from WERBING (U279109) with Bn CP and Hq & Hq Co and Co E in WILMERS (U279109) and Recon Co in DASSWANG (T8008). On 28 April 45 the normal SOP of attachments went into effect with Co A attached 317th Inf Regt; Co B attached 318th Inf Regt and Co C attached 319th Inf Regt. In addition, Recon Co, 318th TD Bn, was attached to 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div. On 28 April 45, the Battalion crossed the DANUBE RIVER in its advance southward, with Bn CP closing in a REGENSBURG (U202588). Recon Co continued reconnaissance along the Div's zone of advance and at close of period, units of the Battalion were in the following locations: Bn CP - MIRSCHEN (U279109); Hq & Hq Co - REGENSBURG (U202588); Recon Co - ROSAU (U375155); Co A - KIRCHLEHEN (U45276); Co B - WEIERSCHOFEN; Co C - GRIESSENBACH (U355115). The Battalion continued to work in conjunction with the 80th Inf Div and was passing through elements of the 80th Inf Div and B Co in the attack of the 13th Armored Div, prepared to mop up enemy resistance encountered. Units of the Battalion had reached the north bank of the ISAR RIVER.

**SECRET**



During the month of April the following equipment was destroyed:

Anti-Aircraft	1	Anti-Aircraft Guns	1
Artillery	3	Artillery	1
Armored Cars	5	Armored Cars	2
Artillery	2	Artillery (in flight)	1
Artillery	6	Mortars	1
Artillery	1	Observation Posts	1
Armored Cars	1		

Total PW's captured - One thousand two hundred and one (1,201)

Estimated number killed - Two hundred ninety eight (298)

Total number wounded - One hundred eight (108)

Total distance covered - total of six hundred and fifty (650) miles during April.

*William C. Taylor*  
 WILLIAM C. TAYLOR,  
 Major, FA (CD),  
 S-3.



SECTION II

S-2 REPORT

From 0001 1 Apr 45 to 21:00 30 Apr 45

MAPS: Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS 1416.

Sheets Number: R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8,  
T4, T5, T6, T7, U5, U6, V7, V8, W6, W7, & W8.

Germany - 1/25,000, GSGS 1414, 4821, 4822, 4823, 4824, 4721, 4722,  
4723, 4724, 4821, 4822, 4823, 4831, 4932, 4933,  
4934, 4935, 4936, 5030, 5031, 5032, 5133, 5034,  
5035, 5036, 5130, 5131, 5132, 5134, 5135, 5136.

The 61st AB Bn attached to the 80th Inf Div at the beginning of the month pressed on in the assault against KASSEL. Reports indicated the German garrisons there consisted of approximately 3,000 men and prepared tank obstacles. All roads leading into the town were mined and the usual roadblocks, defended with AT guns, etc., were encountered. The MISBACK Tank Bn (NO school for tankers) was contacted in this vicinity; together with the 180th Res Div, 835th AA Bn, 892d AA Bn, 15th Pz Gr Regt Alarm Co, and miscellaneous troops forming combat teams.

On 2 April 1945 2/3 of KASSEL had been cleared and our forces were proceeding through and around to the south of the town. Six Pz Kfz VI tanks and 11 Mark Pz Kfz IV and V tanks were reported in the KASSEL area. Six of our destroyers were knocked out when they were caught in an ambush early on the morning of 2 April 1945. Two enemy ME 109's straggled HOLLERHEIM and vicinity. An OP located at HOLLERHAUSEN (H185710). All resistance in KASSEL ceased on 3 April, and General Major ERLEBEN, Commanding General of the garrison of KASSEL, surrendered himself and an estimated 400 men. The attack continued to the NE and strong points of resistance were encountered vicinity of HILBERSBURGER (8301) and towns in that vicinity. Enemy counter-attacks of company strength of infantry and 2 to 3 tanks in support were repulsed.

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Forces capable of intervention at this time included the possibility of those trapped in the MUR pocket, realizing their situation, and thereby attempting to establish a new MUR generally along a line FROBERG (E7017), NARBURG (E9822), KASSEL (C2303), EISENACH (H8207). Until this pocket was cleared the above possibility remained a threat to our left flank.

5-11 April 1945

By 5 April our forces had advanced in zone and the enemy front lines were WANDERSLEBEN (J1900), GRANSLEBEN (J1704), PFERSINGSLIEDEN (J1007), BILSSTADT (J1873). Bn CP, 811th TD Bn, was located in HERTINGHAUSEN (H173937). Many bridges along Autobahn were blown and mined. Contact was lost with the enemy on 6 April 1945, while our forces pushed rapidly to the east.

Battalion moved to GUTHA (J0805). Co C, 811th TD Bn, was strafed in column by enemy aircraft while on move to GUTHA 7 April 1945. Slight enemy resistance was met by our advancing troops vicinity GLERSSTADT (J109755) and GAMSTADT (J2165). Units contacted and identified by PW's were stragglers and deserters who had been away from their units for several days.

On 8 April 1945, 811th TD Bn Pioneer Platoon, Recon Co, destroyed with TNT 23 SP guns with 57mm guns, two 57mm stationary guns mounted in turrets, and 2 armored cars with 20mm guns in woods vicinity (H8973).

On 9 April 1945 the enemy front lines were TUTTELSTADT (J2072), ZIMMERN-SUPRA (J1970), GOTTSTEDT (J2268), NEUDLETENDORF (J2302), HILL 283 (J2359). Enemy was attempting to defend with dug-in positions, small arms, automatic weapons, and bazooka fire. Resistance stiffened with the approach to ERFURT (J3067).

Reconnaissance Company continued reconnaissance in Div zone. Strong points of resistance were met at NEUDLETENDORF (J2361), SCHMIRA (J2766), and ALACH (J2470) where heavy small arms, automatic weapons, AA and mortar fire was received during period.

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Combat team Pader, and Combat team Wolf were reported to be attacking a town. The town was still resisting our assault on the city. The defending positions, direct fire weapons, etc. Several companies of company strength were received at the southern outskirts of the city. Units and squads were employed in the defense of the city.

12-17 April 1945

WITTE was cleared of enemy 12 1900. The enemy front lines were unknown as WITTE (J6109) was cleared 12 1300 and our reconnaissance elements reached GOS TERN (J6101), WITTE (J6109) and RIED (J6172).

WITTE (J6109) was cleared on 12 April. Resistance there consisted of small arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire.

Bn CP moved to WITTE 13 April 1945. Recon Co continued on mission of making reconnaissance in 80th Inf Division. S-2 with 19th Inf Regt relaying information from Recon Co to Regt and G-2. As this period closed our leading elements reached WITTE (K3607), WITTE (K3605) and WITTE (K4109). Only point of contact was SE corner of WITTE. On 17 April 1945 Bn CP moved to WITTE (K33500).

18 April 1945

Bn CP to assembly area Bad Kostrotz (K003002), Sheet T5, 1/100,000. out of contact with enemy. Enemy front lines was WITTE (K5056), STEIN (K5960), WITTE (K0103), AVERS-WALDE (K0108), WITTE (K0370), when Bn was disengaged.

Units last in contact were miscellaneous troops including 4th LANDESSCHUTZEN, WITTE, AA battalions, combat teams, etc. The resistance consisted of S/A, automatic weapons, and Panzerfaust.

19 April 1945

Bn moved to vicinity of WITTE (O-341613).

21 April 1945

Company A and Company C, 811th TD Bn, attached to 3d Cav Gp.

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24 April 1945

811th TD Bn, less Companies A and C, moved to NURNBERG, Sheet No. U5 (U-4201).  
Between 22 to 26 April 1945 one ME 110 destroyed in flight by Company C.

At this time there was no enemy defensive line in contact. Reports indicated that the enemy held the following general areas: SARUBING (U5442), south of the Danube River to vicinity GLEND (U4351), wooded area at (U3748), vicinity KOFERIAK (U4047), vicinity of TRAUBLING (U2450), vicinity SANDORF (U1847, and a general line vicinity (U1742) SW of wooded area to vicinity N of TEUGEN (U1341) to SAAL (U0741) to HORNIPPFAHL (U0442).

27 April 1945

811th TD Bn, less Companies A and C, moved to HELLAU (T9558), Sheet V5, 1/100,000. Companies A and C reverted back to Battalion control.

28 April 1945

Moved to LAZESBURG (U2654), Sheet W6. Enemy front lines reported to be just N. of ISAR River extending from ALBERTINE NE to HOFDOEF and TUNZBERG to 80th Inf Div boundary. Army offered light resistance as our forces advanced toward the ISAR River.

29-30 April 1945

At the close of the month the enemy front lines were on south side of ISAR River from BRASSBURG east along river to RADING in 80th Div sector. In the assault crossing only light resistance was being received. All towns north of the ISAR in the zone have been cleared of enemy as the period ended. Enemy identifications made were mostly from replacement, supply and administration troops, mostly stragglers and not from actually committed combat troops. Resistance consisted of small fanatic groups armed with small arm, automatic weapons and Panzerfausts. Sporadic resistance and scattered groups continued to slow our advance toward the Elbe River.

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**EQUIPMENT DESTROYED:**

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Avd CP</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Tanks:</b>							
Mk IV				2	1	2	5
Mk V				2		1	3
Mk VI				1		1	2
Half-Tracks					1		1
Armd Cars			1				1
SP Guns			25				25
AT Guns			2	5	1		8
20mm AA Guns					1		1
Ammo Dump						1	1
Barges						2	2
Airplane (in flight)						1	1
Mortar Position					1		1
Observation Post			1				1

**ENEMY PERSONNEL LOSSES:**

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Avd CP</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prisoners	16	15	363	317	178	282	1,201
Killed (est)			38	77	85	98	298
Wounded (est)			3	5	30	70	108

*Melvin J. Bryson*  
 MELVIN J. BRYSON,  
 Captain, M (TD),  
 S-2.

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SECTION III

S-1 REPORT

1-30 April 1945

Class I

Rations issued for the month of April consisted of 10 & 1's, and C type rations. Occasionally modified B type rations were issued.

Rations were plentiful and no serious shortages were encountered.

Class II

Clothing and individual equipments shortages prevailed throughout the period. Items such as OD uniforms, underclothes and shoes were very difficult to obtain. Maximum use of captured enemy clothing which were limited to underclothes.

Class III

Serious shortages of 50 and 30 weight oil was experienced throughout the period. On one occasion the movement of a tank destroyer company was delayed due to the non-availability of 50 weight oil. This lack of adequate supplies of oil existed in the Army supply points as well as Division supply point. Gasoline was plentiful.

Class IV

No Remarks

Class V

The usual lack of 76mm HVAP in large quantities existed.

Miscellaneous

Road conditions were generally good, although frequent delays and slow speeds resulted from refugees cluttering the roads.

The Battalion experienced long hauls due to the rapid advance of our forward elements.



VEHICLE LOSSES:

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Car, Armad, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armad, Light, M8	0	1	0	0	0	1
Carriage, Mtr, 70mm Gun M18	0	0	0	6	1	7
Vehicle, Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton Lhd, w/o w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

VEHICULAR REPLACEMENTS:

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Car, Armad, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armad, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 70mm, Gun M18	0	0	0	3	1	4
Vehicle Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	1	0	0	1
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton, Lhd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, Lhd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrier, Cargo, M29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, Lhd, w/o w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ambulance, 3/4 Ton	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

AMMUNITION EXPENDED:

70mm, HE - - - - -	705	37mm, APC - - - - -	90
70mm, APC - - - - -	113	37mm, Canister - - - - -	0
Cal. .50 MG - - - - -	30,210	81mm, Mortar, HE - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 MG - - - - -	14,050	Rocket, AT, M6A3 - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 Rifle Ball - - - - -	3,306	Grenade, AT - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 Rifle AP - - - - -	534	Mine, AT, HE, M1A1 - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 Carbine - - - - -	2,920	Grenade, Hand, Frag - - - - -	118
Cal. .45 Ball - - - - -	200	Grenade, Inc - - - - -	19
37mm, HE - - - - -	129	Grenade, WP, M15 - - - - -	0
		Grenade, offensive - - - - -	12

*Handwritten signature and scribbles*  
 JUSTUS THOMAS  
 Capt. PA (201)

S-1 REPORT

SECTION IV

1-30 April 1945

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY  
 (Figures taken from Morning Reports up to  
 and including 30 April 1945 for the period  
 1-30 April 1945.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
***						
3 Apr 45			7			7
***						
5 Apr 45	6		4	1		11
***						
8 Apr 45			1			1
***						
11 Apr 45			1			1
13 Apr 45			2	2		4
***						
17 Apr 45			1			1
18 Apr 45			2			2
***						
20 Apr 45			1			1

TABLE NUMBER 2.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
 (Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
5 Apr 45	3
10 Apr 45	2
11 Apr 45	1
12 Apr 45	1
15 Apr 45	1
16 Apr 45	39
17 Apr 45	14
21 Apr 45	4
Total	65

TABLE NUMBER 3.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS


Decorations awarded from 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45, incl.

No.

— Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)  
— Distinguished Service Cross  
— Silver Star (Posthumously)  
10 Silver Star  
2 Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star  
— Bronze Star (Posthumously)  
8 Bronze Star  
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star  
— Air Medal  
— Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal  
— Soldier's Medal  
6 Purple Heart Award  
— (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart  
— (2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

Two officers of this organization previously listed in December 1944 as missing in action were liberated from enemy POW camps and one of the two reported to the organization for duty.

Thirty-one enlisted men of this organization listed in December 1944 as missing in action were liberated from enemy POW camps and from official information received have been returned to military control.

  
CLARENCE J. RICK,  
2d Lt, (PA) TD,  
Adjutant.