

HEADQUARTERS  
813th TANK DESTROYER BN  
A.P.O. 758 U.S. ARMY

From: 0001 hrs 1 April 1945  
To : 2400 hrs 30 April 1945

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

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels).

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Foreword: At the beginning of the period of this report, the 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) was still attached to the 79th Infantry Division, and was in support of said division in the RUHR in the general vicinity of Dinslaken and Marxloh. At that time the division and this unit were attached to the XVI Corps, Ninth U.S. Army.

Following is a list of the Battalion Staff. There was no change in the setup of this report as of 2400 hrs, 30 April 1945.

**CLASSIFICATION**

Battalion C.O.	Lt. Col. GEORGE McCUTCHEM
" Exec	Major HERBERT MEETING JR.
" Adj.	1st Lt. JOSEPH P. FASONEZ
S-2	Capt. RICHARD I. JOHNSON
S-3	Capt. DONALD E. LARIMORE
S-4	Capt. SUMNER STEVENSON

**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

1 April 45 On 1 April 1945, the Battalion CP and its companies were located as follows:

- Bn CP .....Marxloh (326235)
- Bn Kr .....Dinslakeh (314300)
- Co A .....Bottrop (453264)
- Co B .....Sterkrade (380255)
- Co C ..... (314262)
- Rcn Co ....Sterkrade (383257)

All of Co A's platoons were located in the vicinity of the Bn CP, as were the platoons of Rcn Co. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons of Cos B and C were respectively located at Coordinates:

	I	II	III
Co B	383231	386236	420233
Co C	305179	317263	317263

The Battalion was equipped with the M-36 Tank Destroyer and each firing company was up to T.O. having twelve TDs each, making a total of thirty-six. At the close of the period of this report, the Battalion had thirty-five M-36s.

On 1 April, Co A in indirect fire positions, fired 50 rds of HE harassing fire on the Krupp factory works, buildings, and cross roads vicinity of Coord. 474201, 474204, 464208, between the hours of 1250-1307. From 2217 to 2250 hrs the company fired 75 more rds at 482177 and 477189, additional Krupps works. From its position at Coord 386236, Co B's 2nd platoon fired 24 rds of HE at various buildings directly to their front causing some damage. Co C's 2nd and 3rd platoons fired a total of 296 rds of HE on targets west of gridline 30 and east of grid 37 south of grid 13 and north of grid 09. Enemy mortar and personnel locations were also taken under fire with 28 rds of HE being concentrated upon the area Coord 35651586. Rcn Co was engaged in patrolling activities with the 313th Inf Regt working north of Duisberg. The company area received some sporadic mortar fire during the night but there were no casualties. The Bn C.O. Major George McCutchen promoted to Lt. Col.

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- 2 April 1945 Co A fired 2 rds of HE at enemy vehicles and also at troops who appeared to be laying mines in vicinity of 441198. Between 1200-1223 hrs the company fired 28 rds of HE at a locomotive vic of coord 470211 and, aided by adjacent artillery fire, succeeded in destroying the locomotive. Co A's platoons moved to indirect fire positions at Coord 346268 and two six gun platoons were formed from the twelve M-36s (90 mm guns). The guns were laid on a base angle of 2400. Co C continued to fire harassing fire at the same targets as on the previous day expending 60 rds of HE. Rcn Co continued its work with the 313th Inf Regt of the 79th Inf Div and also aided the regiment in its military government work in the Hamborn area.
- 3 April 45 The day was uneventful. Co A remained in same positions. Co B, using as a registration point, a house at coord 432206, completed registration after expending 19 rds. Co C fired 52 rds harassing missions upon approximately the same targets as on the previous two days. Rcn Company continued its work with the 313th Inf Regt and in addition, maintained guard over food stores and displaced persons camps.
- 4 April 45 Between 2100-2400 hrs, Co A fired 21 rds of HE harassing fire at crossroads in the vic of 493165, 497184, and 471146. Co B registered again and at 2000 hrs, began a series of harassing fire missions and expended a total of 245 rds of HE. At 0012 hrs, the 2nd platoon of Co C began firing on enemy positions N or grid 14, S of grid 10, E of grid 40, W of grid 34, and at 0700 hrs, had expended 52 rds of HE. At 1100 hrs, the 2nd section of the platoon moved into the sector of the 2nd Bn, 313th Inf Regt, and at 1400 hrs, moved to positions along the railroad tracks on the SE edge of Hamborn. From that point the section laid direct fire into enemy dugouts and then moved to another position firing 5 rds of HE knocking out one railroad tank (oil) car and setting it on fire. The section then fired six rds of HE into a nearby house in which there were an unknown number of enemy troops billeted. It then fired 3 rds of HE and 5 rds of APC at a concrete tower used by the enemy as an OP. There was no change in the positions of the 1st and 3rd platoons and neither of them did any firing during the day. Rcn Co continued to perform practically the same duties as on the previous days.
- 5 April 45 On this day Co A did a considerable amount of firing. From 0001hrs to 0600 hrs, the 3rd platoon plus one destroyer from the 2nd platoon fired 42 rds of HE at crossroads coord 493165, 497184, 471146; from 2100-2400 hrs, the 1st platoon plus two destroyers from the 2nd platoon fired 25 rds harassing fire at approximately the same coordinates; also at 2100-2400 hrs, the 3rd platoon plus two destroyers from the 2nd platoon fired 50 rds of HE at crossroads coord 497184. During this day, Co B fired a total of 236 rds of HE at targets of opportunity, bridges, crossroads, and intersections. Co C fired 18 rds of HE into factory buildings wherein enemy activity had been observed and then later fired 7 rds of APC and 3 rds of HE at a suspected enemy OP tower at a range of 10,000 yds but owing to poor observation, firing was ceased before any results could be definitely ascertained. Co C's 3rd pl fired a total of 204 rds of HE harassing fire at targets fired at on previous day. There was no change in either the position or the duties of Rcn Co.
- 6 April 45 From 0001-0600 hrs, Co A fired 140 rds of HE at the same targets as on the previous day. The company CP then moved to Karnap (RA492b) and the Pls moved as follows: the 1st pl to a firing position at 473283 in support of the 1st Bn 313th Inf Regt; the 2nd pl with the 3rd Bn 313th Inf Regt to vic 489259; and the 3rd platoon with the 2nd Bn 313th Inf Regt to an assembly area vic 479261. At 1900 hrs, Co B left Sterkrade in convoy and after travelling nine miles closed at coord 485289 about 1500 yds south of Butendorf. Earlier in the day, as one of the destroyers was pulling out of position, a round of 90mm ammunition was dislodged from the ready rack and fell to the floor of the destroyer where it detonated setting fire to the TD but causing

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no casualties but damaging the tank destroyed considerably. It was evacuated to Germany for repairs and eventually was put back into action in the battalion. With the 1st and 3rd platoons of Co C in assembly area in Horst, the 2nd platoon fired more harassing missions on the same targets as previously and expended 93 rds of HE. The fire as usual, was directed and controlled by the company FDC. Ren Co was relieved of all missions and duties with Military Government and the 313th Inf Regt in Hamborn and vicinity and departed from there at 1600 hrs, and traveled to Gladbeck where it set up its CP and tied in by telephone with adjacent units. The Bn CP moved a distance of 12 miles closing in Bottrop (459264). The Bn rear echelon also moved closing in Zweckel (466337). All these moves were made to coordinate with the proposed attack on the Rhine-Herne Canal by the 79th Inf Div. with this battalion in direct support of the division.

7 April 45

Co A went into indirect fire positions and beginning at 0001 hrs, and continuing through to 1030 hrs, the 1st platoon fired 296 rds of HE harassing fire missions at crossroads and buildings in the general vicinity of Essen-- at coord 496197, 494191, 501192, 498198, 494200, 500199, 506199, 509198, 512200, and 518202. At 0430 hrs, the 2nd pl moved from 489259 to 496249. The 1st and 2nd platoons of Co B joined the 314th Inf Regt and were attached each to a battalion. There was no change in the situation as regards Co C and Ren Co.

8 April 45

During this period there occurred the crossing of the Rhine-Herne Canal by the battalion in support of the 79th Inf Div. Following is the order in which each of the battalion elements crossed: At 0930 hrs, the 2nd pl of Co A moved from 496249 to a point preparatory to crossing the canal 517255, and crossed the canal at 1130 hrs, with the 3rd platoon crossing at 1200 hrs, and the 1st platoon at 1230 hrs, followed by the company CP at 2300 hrs. The company CP was set up on the other side of the canal at Bruckmannsheide 506225, with the 1st platoon at 525200, the 2nd pl at 510200, and the 3rd pl at 555215. Co B's crossed the canal and closed in 515235, the 3rd pl also 1st pl crossed and closed at 502238 with the 2nd pl being held in reserve and not crossing on this day. The CP of Co C moved to the NE edge of Hegemannshof 523233. At 0100 hrs, all three platoons crossed the canal with the 1st pl moving to 548217 and firing 2 rds of HE on enemy personnel the 2nd pl moved to 535217 and at 1700 hrs, knocked out one 76mm AT gun in the vic of 538210. Later the pl fired 17 rds of HE and 3 rds APC at various targets. The 3rd pl moved to 544238 and fired 14 rds of HE on enemy strongpoints to their front. Ren Co did not cross the canal but remained in place.

9 April 45

From 0800 hrs to 1800 hrs, the 1st pl of Co A in direct support of the 1st Bn of the 315th Inf Regt fired 30 rds of HE and 3 rds of APC at enemy MG nests, billets, AT-defenses and other enemy strongpoints--- knocking out two AT guns (75mm) in the vic of 524204. Enemy foot troops were also engaged with light MG fire and approximately 1000 rds were expended with satisfactory results. An ammo or fuel dump was set on fire in vic of 524204 also. The 1st pl received heavy enemy artillery fire near coord 536178. At 1630 hrs, the 3rd pl of Co A moved with the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt taking up positions at 530180. The 2nd pl remained in position at 510210. Co B's 2nd pl fired 5 rds of HE into a house causing 40 enemy to surrender to the 314th Inf. Early in the morning all pls moved out in support of the division's attack. At 1330 hrs, the company CP moved to Kray, coord 544192. In the afternoon, the 2nd pl fired 8 rds of HE and 2 rds of APC, knocking down a church steeple and scoring a hit with the APC on a locomotive which was last seen to be smoking as it took shelter behind some buildings. At the end of the day

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one of the destroyers of the 2nd pl received a hit in the sprocket and under cover of darkness the destroyer was evacuated to ordnance. The 1st pl was in position at-- 549166, the 2nd pl at-- 563181, and the 3rd pl at-- 539169. There was no change in the position of the Bn CP or of Kcn Co. There were two casualties suffered by Co B when the destroyer was hit, but fortunately both men were only lightly wounded and returned to duty soon after the occurrence.

10 April 45

During the day, at about 1830 hrs, a reconnaissance in force from Co A consisting of two destroyers from the 1st pl and medium tanks and light tanks from the 79th Inf Div made its way to the outskirts of Essen without opposition. The company CP moved at 1500 hrs to coord 531201 vic of Schonnebeck. Co B moved off in the attack at 1400 hrs, and the company CP moved to Sevinghausen 559175. In the afternoon, the 1st pl fired into enemy strongpoints, expended 20 rds of HE and caused some damage and casualties. The 2nd pl fired 10 rds of HE at various targets with results unascertainable. The positions of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd pls at the close of the day were respectively: 602158606179, 608165. Co C's CP moved to Bochum at coord 628217. During the day the 2nd pl knocked out a locomotive and one box car with 1 rd of APC and 3 rds of HE vic of 565195. The 1st and 2nd pls also did some firing at various targets later in the day expending 13 rds of HE and 2 rds of APC. The 3rd pl moved from Bochum to Kray at 557194. The company suffered one S/sgt pl leader killed and two other enlisted men wounded when a mortar barrage fell near one of the platoon positions. Kcn Co's 3rd pl performed guard on civilian food stores and did patrolling HE of Essen. The rest of the company performed guard duties HW of the canal. The Bn CP moved from vic of Bottrop to Katernberg at 510221 and the Rear Echelon from Zweckel 466337 to vic of Hagemannshof 525230.

11 April 45

Co A's 1st pl supporting the 1st Bn of the 315th Inf Regt and the 3rd pl supporting the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt moved out on an attack to secure an objective E of the Ruhr River. The 2nd pl remained in reserve. The pls knocked out one enemy truck at coord 405135. From coord 440125 the 3rd pl at 1400 hrs, fired 8 rds of HE at bunkers and camouflaged positions and billets in vic of 414106. The enemy could be seen taking cover and dispersing. At 1400 hrs, the company CP moved to Holthausen 423134, and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd pls were respectively in positions at 405135, 458112, 440125. Co B fired 17 rds of HE knocking out a nebelwerfer and also a searchlight. The pls were located as follows: 1st, 4603153, 2nd, 4525165, 3rd, 522137. The company CP was at Kray, 548187. Co C moved its CP to Branden Busch, 493136. The three pls supporting each a Bn of the 314th Inf Regt, fired a total of 77 rds of HE on enemy strong points and various targets of opportunity. Kcn Co moved to Schonnebeck 532208.

12 April 45

There was no change re Co A. Co B's 1st pl fired 6 rds of HE in knocking out an enemy truck at 584137. Co C's 3rd pl in support of the 3rd bn of the 315th Inf Regt fired 60 rds of HE and 8 rds of concrete busters and 4 rds of APC during the engagement knocking out two large AA pieces, destroying one stone OP, and a house containing over 50 enemy personnel. The company was also given credit for destroying a Mk V tank on the previous day's action. Also on the previous day it was ascertained that the 1st pl of Co C fired upon and burned what was either a tank or an SP gun. Kcn Co continued to work with Military Government in the north of Essen area.

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- 13 May 45 At 0615 hrs, Co A moved from coord 423134 to a new location at Neukirchen, 592182. Previous to this move, Co A's 3rd platoon moved with the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt to coord ~~604148~~ relieving the 134th Inf upon arrival there. At 0610 hrs, the 2nd pl moved with the 3rd Bn from coord 458112 to 644143 relieving the 137th Inf upon arrival. At 0645 hr, the 1st pl moved with the 1st Bn from 405135 to 654197 remaining in regimental reserve. Activity on the 3rd pl sector was on an increased scale with the pl firing 38 rds of 90mm HE from 1400 to 1800 hrs at enemy OPs, infantry, camouflaged positions, and MG nests. One MG nest was knocked out at coord 607130. The Bn CP moved to Wanne-Eichel, 601261, and entered into a period of partial occupation and military government. Cos B, C, and Kcn likewise moved into the same vicinity and were assigned certain areas to guard and police, Co B moving on 14 May.
- 14 April 45 Co A moved from Neukirchen to Hordel and upon arrival set up a police and patrol system about the assigned area. During the period the battalion received permission to send a limited number of its personnel to rest camps and on recreational pass. The Battalion continued to perform military government duties in the assigned area in the Ruhr.
- 15 April 45 During this two day period the Bn CP and all companies moved from  
to Wanne-Eichel to the following places:
- 16 April 45 Bn Cp to Drewer-Nord coord 565414  
Co A to Drewer-Nord " 570400  
Co B to Datteln " 731402  
Co C to Herten " 595319  
Kcn Co to Sprengstoff " 615416
- ¶  
In these areas the various companies set up a military government aided by a military government officer assigned to the battalion prior to the battalion's leaving Wanne-Eichel. All displaced persons camps were put under control and guards were placed on all important stations and factories and food stores. There was the usual amount of disturbances and preliminary problems but these were met promptly and taken under control.
- 17 April 45 During the period between 17-20 April the Battalion remained at the  
to above stated towns in the Ruhr performing duties of military government.
- 20 April 45 On the 20th of April the battalion was alerted for movement into southern  
(inc) Germany and also learned that it was to be relieved from attachment to the 79th Inf Div with whom it had worked tirelessly since its arrival on Utah Beach in Normandy.
- 21 April 45 At 1330 hrs, on 21 April 45, the Battalion left the Ruhr on the first  
to leg of a long road march to southern Germany and closed in the vic of the  
23 April 45 bomb shattered rubble of Cologne, traveling a distance of slightly over 100 miles. Several of the M-36 tank destroyers fell out on the road because of blown bogies due to the extreme overheating of the steel tracks and bogies. The suggestion is offered here that a maximum speed of not more than 15 miles per hour with short breaks between each two hour period will do much to prevent these M-36s from throwing bogies due to overheating. Moreover, it is suggested that except in cases of extreme emergency that M-36s with steel tracks be moved not more than 75 to 90 miles during each day's travel. During this road march the battalion experienced considerable difficulty in bringing in their TDs, and unfortunately upon one occasion, one tank destroyer overturned coming down an incline causing one fatal casualty and two minor casualties when it went afire. The following day, 22 April 45, the Battalion departed from Cologne and traveled 135 miles closing in Bad Nauheim (L672396). It was upon this trip that the tank destroyer overturned and burned causing the above mentioned casualties. Just previous to this tragedy, another tank destroyer overturned but the crew suffered only minor injuries, and the vehicle was righted and continued to march.

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- 23 April 45 At approximately 0900 hrs, 23 April 45, the Bn departed from the vic of Bad Nauheim and traveled 131 miles closing in the vic of Assamstadt (N4139388) at approximately 1800 hrs.
- The total distance traveled by the Battalion since its departure from Drewer Nord on 21 April was 364 miles. The route taken was as follows:-- From Drewer Nord through Dorsten, Kirchellen, Dinslaken, Orsoy, Mors, Krefeld, Elsen, Cologne (stopped for first night), Bonn, Bad Godesburg, (all vehicles gassed up at a point just south of this town), Konigswinter, Ittenbach, Altenkirchen, Limburg, Camberg, Usingen, Bad Nauheim (stopped here on second night), Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Rensheim, Michelstadt, Assamstadt.
- By nightfall 23 of the M-36 tank destroyers had closed in the area and during the next 36 hours nine more came in. One was destroyed in the accident previously mentioned, and another was evacuated to ordnance along the way.
- On 23 April the Battalion was informed of its attachment to the 101st A/B Division Artillery, and of its departure from Ninth Army to Seventh Army.
- 24 April 45 The Battalion embarked upon an intensive period of maintenance as most of to the vehicles were sadly in need of repair after the long march from the Ruhr.
- 25 April 45 On the 25th of April the Battalion continued its maintenance work and also did some patrolling of the area. About noontime, a B-17 Flying Fortress was observed flying over the Battalion area. Five members of the crew parachuted from the plane when it caught on fire. All five men were picked up by Battalion personnel and taken to the aid station for treatment.
- 26 April 45 On the 26th of April the Battalion was alerted for further movement to to the south, and accordingly an advance billeting detail from each company was
- 27 April 45 sent by the Bn to meet the Billeting officer of the 101st A/B Div advance party. On the next day the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col Mc CUTCHEEN attended a unit commanders meeting at the 101st A/B Div. and learned that the Division and the 813th TD Bn would on the following day move to a point below Ulm, Germany.
- 28 April 45 The Battalion proceeded to depart from Assamstadt and proceeded to Dorzbach in convoy at approximately 1430 hrs and closed in the vicinity of Amendingen (X825366) having traveled a distance of 140 miles. The route of march was as follows: Dorzbach, Kunzelsau, Hall, Ultenhofen, Fichtenberg, Gmund, Lorch, Goppingen, Geislingen, Ulm where the Division had set up a traffic control post from which the Battalion marched on to Amendingen. The Battalion closed about 0030 hrs, on the 29 of April. The heavier tracked vehicles and destroyers followed all during the 29th of April and by the end of the day all vehicles except one or two which had to be evacuated to ordnance had closed in the Battalion area.
- 29 April 45 On the 29th of April the Battalion was again alerted for movement and to on the 30th of April, the Battalion departed from Amendingen in convoy and
- 30 April 45 closed in Oberostendorf Y245317 at 1115 hrs. During the road march, one GMC 2 1/2 Ton truck overturned causing only minor casualties fortunately. Here in Oberostendorf the Battalion, as usual, set up a military government office and handled several hundred Pws turning them over to the Division Pw cage.

During this 50 day period, casualties were comparatively light. Two men killed, one in combat, the other on a road march as the result of a destroyer overturning and burning. Approximately ten men wounded only one of which was diagnosed as serious. The Battalion had approximately 34 M-36s operational and one in ordnance at the close of the period. There was no change in the roster of the Battalion shown on the first page of this report.

The Battalion traveled a distance of over six hundred miles between the period 21-30 April 45 reaching the appointed destinations at the appointed times despite great difficulties and adversities.

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The following is a record of the amount and type of enemy materiel knocked out, destroyed, or captured by the 813th Tank Destroyer Bn (SP) since its arrival in Normandy on 27-28 June 1944.

Mk IV Tanks - 26  
Mk V " - 17  
Mk VI # - 2

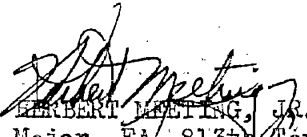
Total 45 plus 10 Self-propelled guns (75mm and 88mm)

# Group and combat vehicles ..... 43  
# Towed Anti-tank and arty pieces ... 17  
# Pill boxes ..... 21

The Battalion has taken well over 1500 prisoners and has in combat accounted for killing or wounding another 1500 enemy troops.

On the 6th of May 1945, the Battalion will have concluded its 33rd month overseas.

For the Battalion Commander:

  
HERBERT M. KING, JR.  
Major, FA, 813th Tank Destroyer Bn (SP)  
Executive.