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: Auth: CG III Corps :
: Date: 1 Mar 1945 :
: Init: :

HEADQUARTERS
817TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 230, U.S. ARMY

1 March, 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C., U. S. Army
(Thru: Commanding General, III Corps, APO 303, U. S. Army)

SECTION I --- Authority
SECTION II --- Introduction
SECTION III --- Report After Action Against Enemy.
SECTION IV --- Annexes.

- ANNEXES
1. Overlay, Operations, 817th T. D. Bn.
 2. Overlay, Intelligence, 817th T. D. Bn.
 3. Administration

SECTION I - AUTHORITY

In compliance with par 10, AR 345-105, this report by the 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 1 February, 1945, to 28 February, 1945, is submitted.

SECTION II - INTRODUCTION

1. Command: During the time covered by the report the 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion operated under the following Headquarters and Commanders:

- a. Ninth United States Army - - - - - Lt. Gen. W. H. Simpson
XIX Corps - - - - - Maj. Gen. R. S. McLain
8th Infantry Division - - - - - Maj. Gen. W. G. Weaver
2nd T. D. Group - - - - - Lt. Col. P. Bell
817th Tank Destroyer Battalion - Lt. Col. W. H. Bardes
- b. First United States Army - - - - - Lt. Gen. C. M. Hodges
VII Corps - - - - - Maj. Gen. L. Collins
V Corps - - - - - Maj. Gen. Huebner
III Corps - - - - - Maj. Gen. John Milliken
99th Infantry Division - - - - - Maj. Gen. Lauer

2. Composition of 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion:

<u>a. Organic</u>	<u>Commanders</u>
Headquarters Company	Captain William J. Edgar
"A" Company	Captain Howard M. Vogel
"B" Company	Captain John T. Omenhiser
"C" Company	Captain Robert L. McKenzie

3. This operation report covers the combat action of the 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion during the period since the last report which was submitted as of 312400A January, 1945.

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4. MAPS:

The following maps were used in this operation:

Germany, 1/25,000

France and Belgium, 1/50,000

SECTION III - REPORT AFTER ACTION AGAINST ENEMY

1 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion attached to 8th Infantry Division with Company "A" supporting the 28th and 121st Infantry Regiments; Company "B" supporting the 13th Infantry Regiment; and Company "C" supporting the 113th Mechanized Cavalry Group. Three inch guns are dug in for anti-tank defense coordinated with 8th Infantry Division anti-tank defenses. Alternate positions have been selected and prepared to meet any possible enemy attack from adjoining sectors. A number of guns are used for firing star shell (illuminating) missions in cooperation with 8th Division Artillery units. Five forward observation posts are maintained by our Reconnaissance Platoons of Headquarters Company.

b. COMMAND POST LOCATIONS:

Battalion	029378
Company A	023335
Company B	036372
Company C	073397

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 4 rds Star Shell on request of 45th F. A.

COMPANY B -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 7 rds Star Shell on request of Div. G-3.

COMPANY C -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Continued to operate outposts.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery continued light, with all sectors receiving moderate barrages during the period. One of our OPs reported smoke coming from stacks of factories in the western section of STOCKHEIM. Two enemy vehicles believed to be halftracks were observed by one of our OPs moving north in the vicinity of DROVE (136385). Enemy air activity was limited to several observation planes over the Battalion sector during the hours of darkness. Enemy flares observed during the period were less numerous than noted during the previous period and were mostly white or yellow in color.

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2 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- A. No change.
- B. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 2 rds Star Shell on request of 45th F. A. Fired 20 rds HE in support of 45th F. A.

COMPANY B. -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 104 rds HE in support of 43rd F. A.

COMPANY C -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Continued operation of outposts.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

The Battalion sector was exceptionally quiet during the period with small barrages of light artillery fire being received indiscriminately throughout all sectors. Enemy flares observed during the period were of the usual white and yellow type with an occasional red and green type being reported in the southeast VOSSENACK sector. Enemy air activity was limited to several reconnaissance planes over the Battalion sector during the hours of darkness.

3 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. No change.
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Gun A-3 fired one Star Shell on request of 45th F. A.

COMPANY B -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Gun B-2 fired 60 rds HE(NC) and 17 rds HE(RC) indirect in support of 43rd F.A. One EM wounded in foot by enemy shell fragments.

COMPANY C -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Continued operation of outposts.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery and mortar fire was comparatively light during the period. Almost all fires were of light caliber with only one large concentration being reported in the BERGSTERN area, late in the period.

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Other barrages scattered throughout the battalion sector were mostly harassing in nature with no damage being inflicted on our installations. Enemy flares observed during the period were more numerous than noted in previous periods and were mostly of a white and yellow color. Enemy air activity was limited to several observation planes over the Battalion sector during the hours of darkness.

4 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. No change
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 4 rds HE(NG) and 28 rds HE(RC) in support of 45th F. A. Bn.

COMPANY B -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 75 rds HE(NG) in support of 43rd F. A. Bn. Fired 3 rds Star Shell at direction of 43rd F. A. Bn.

COMPANY C -- Maintained and improved defenses of area

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Continued operation of outposts.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery remained comparatively light during the period. All sectors proved extremely quiet, with enemy activity continuing to decline over previous periods. Enemy flares observed during the night were for the most part red or amber and more numerous than noted during the previous period. One observation plane was noted over the Battalion area during the night.

5 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. No change
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

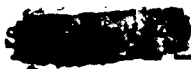
2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

COMPANY B -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

COMPANY C -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Continued operation of outposts.



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3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

The enemy continued to occupy his defensive positions in all sectors. Enemy artillery and mortar was light during the period. Almost all fires were of light calibers with no large concentrations reported. For the most part the fires were of an harassing and interdictory nature. No damage was inflicted on our installations. Enemy flares observed during the night were for the most part white or yellow and less numerous than noted during previous period.

6 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- A. No change
- B. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION -- Made preparations for further action. Prepared to turn in all 3-inch guns in excess of 30.

COMPANY A -- maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 5 rds Star Shell on request of 45th F. A. Bn.

COMPANY B -- maintained and improved defenses of area. Fired 141 rds HE(RC) in support of 43rd F. A. Bn.

COMPANY C -- Maintained and improved defenses of area.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Maintained and improved defenses of area. Continued operation of outposts.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery and mortar fire showed a slight increase over previous periods. Most of the fires were of a harassing and interdictory nature with all sectors receiving from light to moderate barrages at various times during the period. Enemy flares observed were for the most part white and more numerous than noted during the previous period, particularly in the southeast VOSSWACK sector. Enemy air activity was again limited to several observation planes over the Battalion sector.

7 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. Battalion to be relieved from attachment to 8th Infantry Division.
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Continued support of 26th and 121st Inf Regts. Prepare to withdraw.

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COMPANY B -- withdrew from fixed positions to an assembly area in the vicinity of 036372

COMPANY C -- Supported 13th Infantry Regiment. Preparing to withdraw.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Continued operation of outposts. Preparing to withdraw.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Artillery continued to be light with harassing and interdictionary fires of predominately light calibers falling on OPs and crossroads, with the GEY sector receiving perceptibly heavier barrages. Enemy flares continued to be numerous and the usual white and amber type

8 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion relieved from attachment 8th Infantry Division and VII Corps as of 080000 February, 1945, and come under control of V Corps awaiting movement orders.

b. CP LOCATIONS --

COMPANY C 059391
BATTALION, COMPANIES "A" & "B". . . . No change

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Supported their respective regiments until dark when they assembled in their rear area vic 023335

COMPANY B -- Two platoons assembled in rear area vic 036372 and one platoon in KLEINHAU.

COMPANY C -- Supported their respective regiment until dark when they assembled in their rear area vic 059391.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Continued operation of outposts until dark when they assembled in their rear area vic 017322

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

The enemy continued to occupy his defensive positions in all sectors. The period was one of general inactivity on the part of the enemy. His artillery and mortar fire remained light in intensity throughout all sectors of the battalion and was confined to harassing missions. Numerous white flares were reported in the VOSENACK area during the hours of darkness. Enemy air activity was negligible during the period.

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9 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion assembled and awaiting movement orders. Established liaison with 99th Infantry Division AT Officer and V Corps Headquarters.

b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Performed maintenance and prepared for movement.

COMPANY B -- Performed maintenance and prepared for movement.

COMPANY C -- Performed maintenance and prepared for movement.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Performed maintenance and prepared for movement.

10 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

Battalion has received movement orders to leave assembly area 100720 February, 1945, and contact liaison officer of 99th Inf Div vic Henri Chapelle for bivouac area with Division.

2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION -- All units cleared IP as scheduled and moved by motor convoy to Thimister, Belgium (K678301) as allocated to this unit for establishing CP and billeting men by Liaison Officer, 99th Infantry Division.

11 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion to prepare for forthcoming action. Passes and recreation as quotas are received.

b. CP LOCATIONS --

BATTALION K0830
COMPANY A K0830
COMPANY B K0830
COMPANY C K0830

2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION -- Doing maintenance, refitting and preparing for forthcoming action.

12 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. No change.

b. **COMMAND POST LOCATIONS:**

BATTALION Ko78301
 COMPANY A Ko78300
 COMPANY B Ko78302
 COMPANY C Ko83232

2. **OPERATIONS:**

BATTALION -- Doing maintenance, refitting and preparing for forthcoming action.

COMPANY A -- One platoon moved to assembly area vic La Saute (Ko99291) to make room for the 395th Infantry Regiment.

COMPANY B -- Maintenance and preparing for forthcoming action.

COMPANY C -- Moved to vic Les Plenesses (K683232) to make room for the 395th Infantry Regiment.

13 February, 1945 to 22 February, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

a. No changes.

b. No changes.

2. **OPERATIONS:**

BATTALION ** Training Schedule being followed with maintenance and physical training stressed.

3-inch guns sent to Ordnance daily for o-month check-up.

Recreation and passes as quotas are received.

23 February, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

a. Battalion alerted for move. Relieved from attachment V Corps, 99th Inf Div and attached to III Corps.

b. CP LOCATIONS --

BATTALION No change
 COMPANY A No change
 COMPANY B FO24291
 COMPANY C No change

2. **OPERATIONS:**

BATTALION -- Inspection made of personnel, individual equipment, weapons, vehicles and ammunition basic load by Battalion Inspection Team and found to be in excellent condition for forthcoming action. Inspection made of billets to determine if any damage was done during unit occupancy. Report negative.

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COMPANY B -- Moved 12 Guns into position in vicinity Schmidt, Germany (FO03290) from rest area at Thimister, Belgium (Ko78302)

COMPANY A & C -- Preparing for move.

24 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion received movement orders.

b. CP LOCATIONS --

BATTALION K972254
COMPANY A K070294
COMPANY B F051291
COMPANY C No change

2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION -- Forward Bn CP moved to new location at Paustenbach, Germany (K972254) Closed at 1100. One company moved to new location Two companies now in position with 24 guns prepared to fire indirect. Bn. Rear and Company C prepared to move 250800.

COMPANY A -- Moved from vicinity of Thimister, Belgium to Schmidt, Germany. Three platoons divided into two platoons of six guns each located in vic of 072292 and 071297. Guns were dug in and laid

COMPANY B -- Divided three platoons into two platoons of six guns each located in vicinity of 054293 and 051292. Guns dug in and laid. Fired 32 rds of HE(NG) to register.

COMPANY C -- Prepared to move from vicinity of Thimister, Belgium to Schmidt, Germany.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Rcn Plt. laid wire to all guns and assisted communications platoon in establishing direct telephonic communication between the Battalion CP, all Company CP's and individual guns. 2nd Plt. Rcn marked route for move of Company A and Battalion (Fwd)

25 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion attached to III Corps and 400th FA Group with mission of firing indirect with 408th FA Group.

b. CP LOCATIONS --

BATTALION No change
COMPANY A No change
COMPANY B No change
COMPANY C F 052308

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2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION — Bn. now closed into new location. 30 3" guns in position prepared to fire indirect. Companies fired a total of 908 rds of shell HE.

COMPANY A — Fired ten concentrations for a total of 495 rds of HE(NG) and 20 rds of HE

COMPANY B -- Fired nine concentrations for a total of 354 rds of HE(NG), 6 rds of smoke and 20 rds of HE were also fired in registering the guns.

COMPANY C — moved from Thimister, Belgium to vicinity of Schmidt, Germany (FO52306). Closed at 0025 hrs. Guns were placed into position and laid. Three (3) rds of HE(NG) were fired to proff fire survey.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Rcn Plt repaired and laid telephone wire. 2nd Rcn. Plt. repaired roads.

20 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. No change.
- b. CP LOCATIONS — No change

2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION — 30 3" guns operational and in position firing indirect. Fired 31 harrassing missions, three (3) counterbattery missions and one (1) mission for registration for a total of 829 rds. of shell HE(NG).

COMPANY A -- Fired 12 harrassing missions and three (3) counterbattery missions for a total of 300 rds. shell HE(NG).

COMPANY B — Fired 14 harrassing missions for a total of 307 rds. of shell HE(NG).

COMPANY C — Fired 7 harrassing missions for a total of 200 rds. Fired one mission for registration of 14 rds.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS — 1st Plt Rcn. continued to maintain and repair telephone wire. 2nd Plt. Rcn. furnished guards for Bn CP and maintained and repaired roads.

27 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. No change.
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change

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2. OPERATIONS:

BATTALION — Prepared for forthcoming action. Made reconnaissance for direct fire positions and prepared anti-tank plan for defense of present sector. Fired a total of 2463 rds of shell HE(NC) on indirect fire missions.

COMPANY A — Fired 16 missions of harrassing fire of 523 rds. HE(NC) and four neutralization missions of 107 rds. Total rds fired 630.

COMPANY B — Fired six counterbattery missions of 102 rds and harrassing missions of 682 rds. Total rds fired, 784 HE(NC).

COMPANY C — Fired seven counterbattery missions of 144 rds. and harrassing missions of 905 rds. Total rds. fired, 1049 HE (NC).

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Plt. Rcn. continued to lay and repair wire. 2nd Plt. Rcn. furnished guard for Bn. CP, maintained and repaired roads.

28 February, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. No change

b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. OPERATIONS:


BATTALION — Prepared for forthcoming action. Fired a total of 1658 rds. of shell HE (NC) on indirect fire missions.

COMPANY A — Fired 11 missions of harrassing fire of 546 rds. HE (NC) and one mission for registration of 0 rds.

COMPANY B — Fired 11 missions of harrassing fire of 558 rds. HE (NC) and one mission counterbattery of 20 rds.

COMPANY C — Fired 14 missions of interdiction for a total of 504 rds. HE (NC) and one mission counterbattery of 24 rds.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Plt. Rcn. continued to lay and repair wire. 2nd Plt. Rcn. furnished guard for Bn. CP, maintained and repaired roads.



WILLIAM H. BARDES
Lt. Col., 817th T. D. Bn.
Commanding

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ADMINISTRATIVE ANNEX

1 February, 1945 -- Authorized Strength, 36 Officers, 727 Enlisted Men
Assigned Strength , 35 Officers, 724 Enlisted Men

28 February, 1945 -- Authorized Strength, 30 Officers, 727 Enlisted Men
Assigned Strength , 30 Officers, 722 Enlisted Men

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>		<u>DAILY SICK & NON-BATTLE INJURIES</u>		<u>REINFORCEMENTS</u>		<u>RET. TO DUTY</u>	
	0	- EM	0	- EM	0	- EM	0	- EM
3 Feb, 1945	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
9 Feb, 1945	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
21 Feb, 1945	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 Feb, 1945	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
27 Feb, 1945	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	2

SUPPLY

Class I - two (2) days supply on hand

Class III - two (2) days supply on hand

Class V - one hundred per cent (100%) basic load on hand

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