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Charles T. Grandell  
CHARLES T. GRANDELL  
1st Lt., 817th T. D. Bn.  
Adjutant

After Action Rpt for Mth of March.  
Battalion Unit Journal.

29 APR 1945

TO: Commander, 2nd Air Force, Hq. USAF, APO 963, F.O. Army.

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Basic: Ltr HQ 17th AF, AFM 230, 15 Army, (Secret), 1 Mar 65, sub: Report  
After Action Against Enemy. (Feb 65)

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1st Ind.  
Hill Corps AMHILL, AFM 303, 15 Army, 6 Mar 65.

TO: CG, 111 Corps, AFM 303, 15 Army.

Approved.

For the Commanding General:

*August L. Gray*  
US A. INF.  
Major, PA,  
Acting Adjutant.

Incls: n/c

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HEADQUARTERS  
817th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
A.P.O. 230, U.S. ARMY  
1 April, 1945

SECRET  
: Auth: CG III Corps :  
: Date: 1 Apr 1945 :  
: Init: :

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy

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

THROUGH: 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. Administrative, 817th T. D. Bn.
  2. Overlay, Operations, 817th T. D. Bn.
  3. Overlay, Intelligence, 817th T. D. Bn.

#### SECTION I - AUTHORITY

In compliance with par 10, AR 345-105, this report by the 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 1 March, 1945 to 31 March, 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. First United States Army - - - - - Lt. Gen. C. H. Hodges
- b. III Corps - - - - - Maj. Gen. John Milliken  
Maj. Gen. Van Fleet  
408th FA. Group - - - - - Col. Norman  
11th Cavalry Group - - - - - Col. Smith  
401st FA. Group - - - - - Col. Dunn  
8th Tank Destroyer Group - - - - - Col. Larter
- c. 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion - - Lt. Col. W. H. Bardes

2. Composition of 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion:

##### a. Organic

##### Commanders

Headquarters Company	Capt William J. Edgar
"A" Company	Capt Howard M. Vogel
"B" Company	Capt John T. Omenhiser
	1st Lt. John J. McPhillips

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Organic

COMMANDERS:

"C" Company

Capt Robert L. McKenzie  
1st Lt. Ralph M. Hofmann  
1st Lt. Rhondal L. Burton

Reconnaissance Company

Capt Robert U. Sternfels

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 282400 February, 1945.

4. MAPS:

The following maps were used in this operation:

Central Europe, 1/100,000 -

Germany, 1/25,000 -

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SECTION III - REPORT AFTER ACTION AGAINST ENEMY

1 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion attached to the 408th FA Group and prepared for forthcoming action on indirect fire missions.

b. COMMAND POST LOCATIONS --

Battalion . . . . .	972254
Company A . . . . .	070294
Company B . . . . .	051291
Company C . . . . .	052308

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Fired 11 missions of harrassing fire of 546 rds. HE (NC) and one mission for registration of 6 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. NE (NC) and one mission counterbattery of 24 rds.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- First platoon continued to lay and repair telephone wire. Second platoon furnished guard for Battalion CP, maintained and repaired roads.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery received in the Battalion sector was negligible during this period with no enemy air activity reported.

2 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. No change.

b. COMMAND POST LOCATIONS:

Battalion rear CP moved forward to present position (972254), otherwise no change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Fired 4 missions of harrassing fire of 199 rds. HE (NC), 1 mission close support of 12 rds. HE (NC), and 1 mission registration of 8 rds for a total of 219 rds.

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COMPANY "B" -- Fired 5 missions of harrassing fire of 208 rds. HE (NC) and 2 missions TOT of 12 rds. for a total of 220 rds.

COMPANY "C" -- Fired 6 missions of interdiction fire of 223 rds. HE (NC) and 3 missions of neutralization fire of 41 rds. for a total of 264 rds.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- First Platoon continued to lay and repair wire. Second Platoon furnished guard for Battalion CP, maintained and repaired roads.

### 3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

During this period it was relatively quiet in all three Company sectors with some small arms fire being received in the vicinity of GYMNICH (F 3049). No casualties were inflicted on our troops.

3 March, 1945

### 1. SITUATION:

a. Relieved of duty with 408th FA Group and attached to the 14th Cavalry Group. Battalion moved from vicinity of 972254 to vicinity of BOICH (123357) and assembled. Later in the day the 14th Cavalry Group received an order to begin relief of the First Infantry Division. The Battalion moved to the vicinity of HOCHKIRCHEN (229447) closing its new location at 1930 hours. Battalion rear moved to BOICH (123357) closing at 1845 hours.

### b. COMMAND POST LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	229447
Company A . . . . .	229448
Company B . . . . .	231460
Company C . . . . .	168375

### 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Moved from vic. of SCHMIDT to vic. of (118364) and moved again to vic. of HOCHKIRCHEN (229448) closing in its new location at 2030 hours. Plans are being made to fire indirect from vic of PINGSHEIM (265452).

COMPANY "B" -- Moved from vic. of SCHMIDT (051291) to vic. of (105340) and moved again to vic of NOHVENICH (231460) closing in its new location at 1930 hours. Company will support the 18th Cavalry Squadron in its mission to hold left flank of line along the ERFT Canal.

COMPANY "C" -- Moved from vic of (052308) to vic. of SOLLER (168375) closing in its position at 0830 hours. Company will support the 32nd Cavalry Squadron in its mission to protect the right flank of line along the ERFT Canal.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- First platoon moved with "B" Company and will support the 18th Cavalry Squadron in its mission to hold left flank of ERFT Canal. Second platoon moved with Company "C" to vic. of SOLLER (168375) and then later moved to Battalion present location at (229447). It is now held in reserve prepared to reconnoiter on call.

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36

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3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

During this period the enemy was observed digging entrenchments in the vicinity of LIEBLAR (F 3546). These were taken under fire and quickly dispersed with several casualties being inflicted. Enemy mortar fire was very light during the period.

4 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion CP remained in position

b. COMMAND POST LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	229447
Company A . . . . .	265450
Company B . . . . .	302491
Company C . . . . .	315434

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Moved two platoons (8 guns) into indirect firing positions in the vicinity of PINGSHEIM (268452). Fired 18 rounds for registration. One platoon is held in reserve and was moved to NORVENICH (331459) for its road net.

COMPANY "B" -- B-1 moved to HEILERHOFE (285474) where it is in direct fire positions and is controlling the town filled with hostile civilians. B-2 moved to DIRMERZHEIM (316478) where it is in direct fire positions and supports Troop C of the 18th Cavalry Squadron in its control of the town. B-3 and Company CP moved to GYMNICH where the platoon is in direct fire positions and controls the south third of the town while A & B Troops of the 18th Cavalry Squadron controls the rest of the town filled with hostile civilians. B-3 caught an enemy patrol trying to infiltrate through our lines and killed one, wounded one, and captured three. No casualties were suffered by B-3. The prisoners were turned over to Decoy Blue.

COMPANY "C" -- Company moved with C-1 and C-3 to AHREM (315434) where the platoons are in direct fire positions. C-2 is in direct fire positions in vic. of HERRIG (288453). Company supports the 32nd Cavalry Squadron.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- First platoon held in reserve by the 18th Cavalry Squadron prepared to support them on call. Second Platoon held in reserve by this unit prepared to meet any emergency.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

One enemy patrol attempted to infiltrate our lines in the vic. of GYMNICH (F 3049) at 2030 hours 3 March. This patrol was intercepted by one of our security outposts. In the resulting action one of the Germans was killed and three taken prisoner, one of which was wounded. Upon interrogation, one of the prisoners who was Polish, stated that their missions was to gather information, also that there was about a half a company holding the town in the general area across the canal Northeast of GYMNICH. He

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also stated that at 1900 hours each night an enemy machine gun section sets up at the canal crossing between BRUGGEN (3250) and GYMNICH and each morning at daybreak the section withdraws. The prisoners were turned over to Decoy Blue for further questioning and disposition.

5 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion CP remained in position. An ex-German soldier was found among civilians of HOCHKIRCHEN (229447) and turned over to First Army PW enclosure.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . . 229447  
Company A . . . . . 265450  
Company B . . . . . 302491  
Company C . . . . . 351464

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Fired four harrassing missions totaling 40 rounds of shell HE (NC). Reserve platoon remained in position in NORVENICH (231459).

COMPANY "B" -- Maintained and improved positions in METLERHOFE (285474). DIRMERZHEIM (318478) and GYMNICH (302491). Company supports 18th Cavalry Squadron.

COMPANY "C" -- Company CP, C-3 and C-2 moved to LIEBLAR (351464) where they assisted in clearing the town of the enemy. C-2 fired 5 rds of APC to destroy one pillbox. C-1 moved to ELESSEM (338464) where it went into direct fire positions covering the southern flank of the position.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- First platoon held in reserve by the 18th Cavalry Squadron to support them on call. Second platoon held in reserve by Battalion prepared to reconnoiter on call.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy mortar fire was limited to 20 rds, falling in the town of GYMNICH ( F 302492). One 8 to 10 man enemy patrol operated in and east of GYMNICH late during the period.

6 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion still in position and attached to the 14th Cavalry Group.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

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Battalion . . . . . 229447  
Company A . . . . . 265450  
Company B . . . . . 302491  
Company C . . . . . 351464

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Fired two destruction missions of 80 rds and one neutralization mission of 18 rds, to register, 16 rds of HE and 3 rds of Star Shell were fired. Total rds fired were HE (NC) - 111 and Star Shell - 3. Reserve platoon prepared to move to GYMNICH (302491).

COMPANY "B" -- Maintained and improved defense of area. Made preparations for future operations. Captured two enemy personnel who came from BRUGGEN (323502) to our lines to surrender. Company supports 18th Cavalry Squadron.

COMPANY "C" -- Maintained and improved defense of area. Fired 7 rds of HE and knocked out one machine gun emplacement and neutralized activity of enemy personnel.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- The first platoon moved with elements of the 18th Cavalry Squadron to vic of BOLTENBROICH (315551) prepared to jump off to South of east side of Canal. Second Platoon prepared to move to mobile reserve in vicinity of GYMNICH (362491) prepared to assist Rcn 1 if necessary.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

There was no contact with the enemy during the period. During the afternoon about 150 people, reported to be carrying rifles and packs, infiltrated into KOTTINGEN (F 3448). Between 2030 and 2230, a patrol in the KOTTINGEN area made no contact with the enemy. Patrol observed town closely and saw no movement even though a building was observed burning. During the early part of the night, trucks were heard along the BRUGGEN-TURNICH road. Much civilian activity was noted during the day. Civilians entered BRUGGEN in small groups from the east and from the woods vicinity (F 315505). White flags were displayed in windows of houses in KOTTINGEN.

7 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

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

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- First and third platoons in vic of (266456) in indirect fire positions. A-2 is in reserve in vic of GYMNICH (302491)

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COMPANY "B" -- Continued to improve positions in vic of GYMNICH (302491). B-1 moved to vic of DIRMEZHEIM (318478) with B-2. B-3 remains in GYMNICH. A total of 5 prisoners were captured by Company B in vic of B-2 and B-3.

COMPANY "C" -- Located vic (351404) continued to maintain and improve defense of area. C-1 moved to vic of KIERDORF (331495) and placed guns in direct fire positions. C-2 in position in LIELAR (351404). C-3 in position in vic of OBER LIELAR (363456). Company captured 30 prisoners, 14 of which claimed to be ex-Frenchmen.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 was assigned mission of reconnoitering left flank of troop B, 18th Cavalry Squadron as it took objectives on east bank of ERFT CANAL in 18th Cavalry Squadron sector. Platoon captured one enemy prisoner in vicinity of (300531). All railroad overpasses and underpasses between MODRATH (290549) and KIERDORF (334496) were found demolished. The woods in vicinity of (305535) gave evidence of being an ex-German bivouac area but has been deserted for several days. Ten barracks and twenty ammunition dumps were found in vic (335514). Buildings were empty and no minefields were encountered. Rcn 2 moved to vic of GYMNICH (302491) where it is being held in reserve.

## 3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy stragglers surrendered in towns between TURNICH (F 3052) and LIELAR (F 3546). Only light resistance was encountered in mopping up this area. A few rounds of mortar and some small arms fire was received from the vicinity of (F 490400).

8 March, 1945

## 1. SITUATION:

- a. Supports 14th Cavalry Group. Moved Battalion CP forward to KOTTINGEN (346486) closing in new location at 1630 hours.
- b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	346486
Company A . . . . .	370452
Company B . . . . .	415478
Company C . . . . .	349465

## 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports fire of 193rd FA Bn. CP located at (370452). A-1 and A-3 are in indirect fire positions in vicinity of (370452) and A-2 is being held in reserve in that area.

COMPANY "B" -- Supports the 18th Cavalry Squadron. CP moved to new location at BRUHL (415478). B-1 moved to vicinity of SCHWADORF (422454) and is in direct fire positions. B-2 moved to BRUHL and covers approaches to that area with direct fire positions. B-3 moved to DORF PINGSdorf (409464) and covers approaches to that area. Company supports the 18th Cavalry Squadron in clearing all enemy resistance to the Rhine River

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40

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COMPANY "C" -- Located at LIHLAR (349465). C-1 located at KIERDORF (331494). C-2 at LIHLAR (349465). C-3 at OBERLIHLAR (363456). Preparations have been made for the Company to move forward in supporting the 32nd Cavalry Squadron in clearing all enemy resistance to the Rhine River. 11 Prisoners were captured.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 moved to BRUHL (415478) where it remains in reserve to support the 18th Cavalry Squadron in clearing the area of the enemy. Rcn 2 moved to KOTTINGEN (346486) where it remains in reserve.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy resistance was ended in the Battalion's zone. Friendly units reported enemy making last minute efforts to escape across the mine by barge and ferry. Ferrying activities were reported vic F470580 and F 475502 during the afternoon.

9 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. No change.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	346486
Company A . . . . .	409463
Company B . . . . .	415478
Company C . . . . .	447434

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports fire of 193rd FA Bn. Co Hqs and three platoons moved to vicinity of DORF PINGS DORF (409463) where 1st and 3rd platoons have been placed into indirect fire positions. A-2 is being held in reserve in that vicinity.

COMPANY "B" -- Supports 18th Cavalry Squadron in clearing all enemy resistance in zone to RHINE. Co Hqs and B-2 remained in BRUHL (415478). B-1 remained in position in vicinity of SCHWADF (422454) and B-3 remained in position in vicinity of DORF PINGS DORF (409464). Platoons maintained and improved defenses of position.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 32nd Cavalry Squadron in clearing enemy resistance in zone to Rhine. Co. Hqs, C-1 and C-2 moved to vicinity of SECHTEM (447434) where the platoons went into direct fire positions. C-3 moved to HEIDE (390490) where it took up direct fire positions. Two EM's injured; one by small arms fire of Cavalry personnel and one crushed against building by a half-track.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 remains in reserve in BRUHL (415478) Rcn 2 remains in reserve in KOTTINGEN (346486).

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3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

During this period there was a heavy increase in enemy air activity. Frequent groups of enemy fighter planes were reported over the Battalion sector on strafing and light bombing missions along the Rhine river front. This Battalion was not in contact with enemy units during this period.

10 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion moved its CP to WALBERBERG (423440)

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	423440
Company A . . . . .	409463
Company B . . . . .	415478
Company C . . . . .	447434

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports fire of 193rd FA Bn. Remains in indirect fire positions with two platoons, with one platoon in reserve in vicinity of DORF PINGSdorf (409463). Fired nine harrassing missions for a total of 221 rds of shell HE (NC). Captured one German soldier in civilian clothes.

COMPANY "B" -- Supports 18th Cavalry Squadron who have been relieved in position by elements of the First Division. Company assembled in vicinity of BRUHL (415478) prepared to move out.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 32nd Cavalry Squadron. Company and three platoons located in vicinity of SECHTEM (447434). C-1 and C-3 are in indirect fire positions. C-2 remains in direct fire position. Company registered and fired one mission of destruction of 30 rds HE (NC) destroying one enemy OP.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 remains in reserve in vicinity of BRUHL (415478). Rcn 2 remains in reserve in vicinity of WALBERBERG (423440).

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy infantry was observed digging in at F 509458 and were fired on by one of our companies, resulting in an unestimated number of casualties being inflicted. Enemy air activity was sporadic with frequent forays being made by fighters on strafing missions. Enemy artillery fire was light in intensity during the period.

14<sup>b</sup>  
10 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Remained in WALBERBERG (423440). Was detached from 14th Cavalry Group and reverted to III Corps control as 102400 March, 1945.

b. CP LOCATIONS: No change.

42

## 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports fire of 193rd FA Bn. Remained in indirect fire positions in vicinity of DORF PINGSdorf (409463) until 1300. The company was then assembled in that vicinity ready for movement.

COMPANY "B" -- Supported 18th Cavalry Squadron until 2400 hours. Remained in assembly area vicinity of BRUHL (415474) ready for movement.

COMPANY "C" -- Supported 32nd Cavalry Squadron until 2400 hours. Company located in vicinity of SECHTEM (447434). C-1 and C-3 fired indirect using their own forward observer. Fired ten destruction missions, four harrasing missions, and one mission for registration for a total of 220 rds. of HE (NC). Enemy infantry were observed digging in at vic (509458) and were taken under fire. Results: It could be observed that many casualties were inflicted. Company pulled out of position at 2200 hours and assembled, preparing for movement.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 departed for a mission of doing traffic control work for the III Corps Headquarters. The platoon took four additional officers with it. Rcn 2 remained in an assembly area in the vic of WALBERBERG (423440) preparing for movement.

## 3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy air activity was again confined to strafing missions. Enemy artillery continued to be light and of a harrasing and interditory nature.

12 March, 1945

## 1. SITUATION:

- a. Battalion attached to the 401st FA Group. Forward CP moved from WALBERBERG (423440) to BAD GODESBERG (529318). Arrangements are made to move Battalion to same area.

## b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	592318
Company A . . . . .	409463
Company B . . . . .	415474
Company C . . . . .	447434

## 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY A -- Company remained in assembly area prepared to move. Company Commander reconnoitered for indirect fire positions in vicinity of BAD GODESBERG (592318) to reinforce fire of 965 FA Bn.

COMPANY B -- Company remained in assembly area prepared to move. Company Commander reconnoitered for direct fire positions on west bank of Rhine River in the vicinity of BAD GODESBERG (592318).

COMPANY C -- Company remained in assembly area prepared to move. Company Commander reconnoitered for indirect fire positions in vicinity

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LANNES to reinforce fire of 809th FA Battalion.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 and four additional officers are being used as road guides for III Corps traffic control. Rcn 2 assembled at BAD GODESBERG (592318).

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy mortar and artillery fire continued to be of a harassing and interdictory nature and of light intensity. Enemy air activity continued to be sporadic and concentrated mainly on strafing missions.

13 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. No change.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	592318
Company A . . . . .	589327
Company B . . . . .	598322
Company B . . . . .	595299

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Reinforces fire of 905 FA Bn. Company moved to new location in BAD GODESBERG (589327) and went into indirect fire positions along north side of city. Guns were laid but not registered. 600 rds of HE delivered to guns.

COMPANY "B" -- Company moved to new location in BAD GODESBERG (598322) and placed guns into defensive positions along west bank of Rhine river during the hours of darkness. A daylight reconnaissance was made for targets on far side of river. One EM wounded in leg by sniper fire.

COMPANY "C" -- Reinforces fire of 809th FA Bn. Company moved to new location southwest of LANNES in vic of (59299) and went into indirect firing positions. Guns were laid but not registered. 600 rds of HE delivered to the guns. Company Commander was seriously wounded in both legs by enemy mortar fire. Evacuated.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 remains with III Corps traffic control Headquarters on special duty. Rcn 2 - two vehicles and one officer have gone across Rhine river to reconnoiter for targets to be taken under fire by the artillery and to adjust that fire if possible. Remainder of platoon remains in reserve.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy mortar and artillery was negligible during the period. Enemy air activity continued although only three fighters were reported over the Battalion sector during the period, one of which was shot down by friendly troops.

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44

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14 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

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

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Fired harrassing missions for a total of 39 rds of HE(NC) and 73 rds of HE (RC). Reinforces fire of 965th FA Bn.

COMPANY "B" -- Fired direct fire across Rhine River at previously selected targets. One parked half-track was destroyed, 5 OP's were destroyed, fire was placed on a large castle overlooking this city (probable CP). Dugouts, barges, and houses believed to be occupied by soldiers who had been seen wandering about these places were fired upon. 140 rds HE (NC) and 12 rds of APC were used.

COMPANY "C" -- Fired harrassing missions for a total of 332 rds of HE(NC) and 40 rds of HE (RC). Reinforces fire of 909th FA Bn.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 remains with III Corps traffic control on special duty. Rcn 2 - Two vehicles and one officer still reconnoitering across Rhine River for possible artillery targets.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy foot troops were observed entering house vic F 628313. This house was taken under direct fire and complete destruction was accomplished. Various groups of enemy soldiers were observed in the same vicinity and numerous casualties were inflicted by our direct fire.

15 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion released from attachment 401st FA Group and attached to 8th Tank Destroyer Group. Moved CP to new location in ERPEL (647207).

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	647207
Company A . . . . .	689208
Company B . . . . .	705187
Company C . . . . .	690155

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Reinforced fire of 965th FA Bn until 150300. Company was in an indirect fire position and fired 32 harrassing missions and 2 neutralization missions for a total of 186 rds of HE (NC) and 893 rds of HE (RC). Company moved to new location across Rhine with mission of supporting the action of the 9th Infantry Division in its sector. Reconnaissance was made of area and at the time of this report the company was moving into

S E C R E T

position. Tentative position of CP will be in vicinity (689207). One gun out of action - sent to Ordnance for repair.

COMPANY "B" -- Company was in direct fire position on west bank of Rhine river in vicinity of BADGODESBERG until 142400. Company received mission of supporting the action of the 99th Infantry Division in its sector and a reconnaissance was made of the area and at the time of this report the company was moving into position in vicinity (705187). One EM wounded in leg by sniper fire while in position in BAD GODESBERG. Evacuated.

COMPANY "C" -- Reinforced fire of 809th FA Bn. until 150300. Company was in an indirect fire position and fired 31 harrassing missions for a total of 584 rds of HE (RC). Also fired 7 rds star shell on request of 809th FA Bn. Company received mission of supporting the action of the 99th Infantry Division in its sector. Reconnaissance was made of area and at the time of this report were moving into position in vic of (690155).

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 and 4 officers remain with III Corps Traffic Control Headquarters on special duty. Rcn 2 - Two vehicles and one officer reconnoitered for artillery targets until 142400. Reverted back to Battalion Control and will be assembled in vic of Battalion CP.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

The enemy continued his determined efforts to contain the bridgehead. Enemy resistances was generally light during the day with moderate artillery and mortar being received in all sectors. Enemy air activity was again concentrated on the bridging sites across the RHINE river. 35 raids were made during the period. Majority of planes were ME-202s, confined to strafing and light bombing missions.

16 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion established contact and liaison with the units being supported and with other Tank Destroyer Units in area.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	647207
Company A . . . . .	689208
Company B . . . . .	679184
Company C . . . . .	686165

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Went into direct fire positions. Dug in guns and established telephone communications. Made reconnaissance forward for new positions.

S E C R E T

46



**S E C R E T**

COMPANY "B" -- Went into direct fire positions. Dug in guns and established telephone communications. Made reconnaissance forward for new positions.

COMPANY "C" -- Went into direct fire positions. Dug in guns and established telephone communications. Made reconnaissance forward for new positions.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 remain on special duty with the III Corps Traffic Control Headquarters. Rcn 2 returned to Battalion and remains in reserve. Prepared to go south along river on reconnaissance for terrain study and possible gun positions, as that area is cleared of the enemy.

### 3. ENEMY ACTIVITY

Enemy artillery fire was moderate during the period with most concentrations confined to attacking elements in the vicinity of (F732192). Enemy air activity was negative during the period with only one plane being reported over the LINZ area. Two enemy tanks were reported in an unsuccessful counterattack in the vicinity of HESSELIN (F7313).

17 March, 1945

#### 1. SITUATION:

- a. Battalion attached to the 8th Tank Destroyer Group.
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

#### 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 9th Infantry Division. The 2nd and 3rd platoons moved forward and went into direct fire positions in vic of 704234 and 699242 respectively, covering approaches from the north, northeast, and east. The 1st platoon remained in direct fire position in vic of 714217.

COMPANY "B" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. The 2nd and 3rd platoons moved their gun positions forward in the vicinity of 725171 and 724196 respectively, to cover the approaches from the east and southeast of the 99th Infantry Division sector. 1st Platoon remained in the vicinity of 697183.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. The platoons remain in direct fire positions. Reconnaissance was made south along river for possible move forward. Reconnaissance was also made in vic 730150 for possible gun positions, but found area unsuitable for positions at present time. Until the line moves forward, there are no tank approaches directly south of B-2's positions.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Platoon and 4 officers remain with III Corps Traffic Control on special duty. 2nd Platoon conducted a reconnaissance of terrain for tank approaches and possible gun positions on high ground along southern boundry of the 99th Infantry Division area not yet cleared of enemy.

**S E C R E T**

47

**SECRET**

3. **ENEMY ACTIVITY:**

Enemy artillery activity in the Battalion sector continued to be light with the REMAGEN bridge drawing 37 rds of light and medium with no hits being recorded. Enemy air activity reached a new low during the period with only one ME-262 being reported over the Battalion sector.

18 March, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

- a. Battalion attached to the 8th T. D. Group. Reconnoitered for billets for Bn CP in 99th Infantry Division sector with view of moving as soon as possible.
- b. CP LOCATIONS -- No change.

2. **OPERATIONS:**

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 9th Infantry Division. Maintained and improved defense of area. Reconnaissance made forward for possible positions in 9th Infantry Division sector and also for positions in sector of 393rd Infantry Regiment of 99th Infantry Division. Two men killed and three wounded by enemy mortar fire.

COMPANY "B" -- B-1 maintained and improved defenses of positions and reconnoitered and selected positions in vicinity of 754186. Prepared to move to those positions. B-2 moved positions forward to vic 737165. B-3 maintained and improved defense of area. Captured one German in vic 738178 after wounding him with rifle fire. Soldier had been hiding in woods in area.

COMPANY "C" -- Maintained and improved defense of area. Reconnoitered for positions forward north of HONNINGEN (098135) and approaches from the east leading to that town.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Platoon and 4 officers remain with III Corps Traffic Control on Special Duty. 2nd Platoon conducted a reconnaissance of terrain for tank approaches and possible gun positions on high ground along southern boundry of the 99th Infantry Division sector.

3. **ENEMY ACTIVITY:**

Enemy activity during the period was largely to defensive digging and to isolated movements behind the enemy lines. Enemy artillery continued to be light during the period, confined mostly to fires of harassing and interdictory nature. Enemy air activity was negligible with only four enemy aircraft being reported over the Battalion sector during the period.

**SECRET**

46

# S E C R E T

## 1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion attached to 8th TD Group. Prepared to move to new location in LINZ (079104)

## b. CP LOCATIONS

Battalion . . . . .	.047207
Company A . . . . .	.733172
Company B . . . . .	.723188
Company C . . . . .	.700130

## 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Company and platoons moved from sector of 9th Infantry Division to sector of 99th Infantry Division taking direct fire positions in support of the latter unit. Platoons are located in vic; A-1 748102, A-2 737166, A-3 754167.

COMPANY "B" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Company moved its CP from LINZ forward to new location in vic (723108). B-1 displaced forward to occupy positions in vic of 747188. B-2 displaced north to occupy positions in vic of 722205. B-3 remained in position in vic 724196; maintained and improved defense of area.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 10th Cavalry Squadron. C-1 - 092148; C-2 706123; C-3 - 060104. C-1 and C-3 remained in position improving defense of area. C-2 displaced forward to take direct fire positions south of HONNINGEN in vic of 700123. Company moved CP to NONNINGEN. One security Section established road block NE of COLUMBUS. Platoon Leaders reconnoitered for positions in vic of HONNINGEN.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Platoon and 4 officers on Special Duty with III Corps Traffic Control Section. One section of the 2nd Platoon established outposts in front of Company "A"'s Sector. The other section conducted reconnaissance for tank approaches in southern sector of 99th Infantry Division.

## 3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery showed a decided decrease with shelling reports reaching a new low since the RHINE river crossing, only 13 shell reports were received, averaging 8 rds. Enemy air activity was confined to four planes which were reported over the Battalion sector during the hours of darkness.

20 March, 1945

## 1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion attached to the 8th Tank Destroyer Group. Battalion moved to new CP. Location at LINZ. Closed at 1030 hrs.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	680183
Company A . . . . .	733172
Company B . . . . .	723188
Company C . . . . .	699127

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Platoons remained in position, maintained and improved defense of area.

COMPANY "B" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Company remained in position, maintained and improved defenses of area.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 18th Cavalry Squadron. Locations: C-1 714109, C-2 740072, C-3 716102. C-2 was in position south of HONNINGEN to support attack on RHEINBROHL. Dismounted security of C-2 went into RHEINBROHL on the attack and captured 4 prisoners. C-2 then at 2030 hours, moved to direct fire positions vic 740070 covering road block at 742068. C-1 and C-3 displaced from direct fire positions in vic ARIENDORF AND LEUBSDORF to vic RHEINBROHL (714105). Guns were in new positions at 2030 hours.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Platoon and 4 officers remain with III Corps Traffic Control on special duty. Rcn 2 - One section maintains front-line outposts in front of Company "A". Second section on security mission covering area on flank of C-2.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy action during the period was confined to scattered movement behind his lines, limited patrolling, and light and scattered artillery fire. Artillery was mostly sporadic and of the harassing type with several concentrations falling in HONNINGEN. Enemy aircraft bombed in the vicinity of (F 755175) at 2230 hours and nine individual raids were reported over the Battalion sector on reconnaissance missions during the period.

21 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. Battalion attached to the 8th T. D. Group.
- b. CP LOCATIONS: No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Platoons remained in positions. Maintained and improved defenses of area.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

COMPANY "B" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Platoons remained in positions. Maintained and improved defenses of area.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 18th Cavalry Squadron. Platoons remained in positions. Maintained and improved defenses of area. Made preparation to support 9th Infantry Division after being relieved from support of 18th Cavalry Squadron.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- 1st Rcn and 4 officers remain with III Corps Traffic Control on Special Duty. One section of 2nd Rcn maintained outposts in front of Company "A". One section provided flank security for Company "C". Section captured eleven prisoners.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy activity was at a minimum while he limited his efforts to intermittent artillery fire and several bombing and strafing attacks. During the period artillery fire was confined to harassing fire during daylight hours. Fire included mortar and light caliber artillery on forward elements. All enemy air activity over the Battalion sector took place during the hours of darkness and aside from isolated bombing and strafing attacks on the forward elements. 18 raids were reported on the bridge sites.

22 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. Battalion attached to 8th Tank Destroyer Group.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	680183
Company A . . . . .	733172
Company B . . . . .	723188
Company C . . . . .	722222

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Platoons remained in positions. One Prisoner of War taken by OP.

COMPANY "B" -- In general support of the 9th and 99th Infantry Divisions. Company remained in positions. No change.

COMPANY "C" -- Company supports 9th Infantry Division. Locations: C-1 739226; C-2 726246; C-3 722212. Company moved into position after relief from support of 18th Cavalry Squadron and prepared positions to support the 9th Infantry Division sector.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS: 1st Rcn - One section and 4 officers remain with III Corps Traffic Control on special duty. Second section of Rcn 1 acting as guard for Bn. CP. Rcn 2 - One section maintained outposts forward of Company "A"; section two preparing to furnish flank protection for Company "C".

23 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. Battalion attached to the 8th T. D. Group
- b. CP LOCATIONS: No change.

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Platoons remained in positions maintaining and improving defenses of area.

COMPANY "B" -- In general support of the 9th and 99th Infantry Divisions. Company remained in position maintaining and improving defenses of area.

COMPANY "C" -- Company supports 9th Infantry Division. Company moved into position after relief from support of 18th Cavalry Squadron and prepared positions to support 9th Infantry Division. Four EM wounded, one EM killed, and one officer wounded by artillery fire.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 - returned from special duty with III Corps Traffic Control to furnish screen and outposts along front line forward of Company "C". Rcn 2 - maintained outposts on front line forward of Companies "B" and "A".

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

Enemy artillery although initially very light, increased considerably during the day. The bulk of the fire fell on forward elements with an estimated 500 rds falling in the BRITSCHIED (F 7920) area. Enemy air activity over the Battalion sector was negligible with only one plane passing over, with no attack being made.

24 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. Battalion attached to 8th T. D. Group.
- b. CP LOCATIONS: No change

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Locations: A-1 747188; A-2 737166; A-3 754167. 1st Platoon relieved B-1 and moved into the area it formerly occupied. 2nd and 3rd platoons remained in positions maintaining and improving defenses of area.

S E C R E T

52

**SECRET**

COMPANY "B" -- In general support of the 9th and 99th Infantry Divisions. 1st Platoon moved to positions vic 750236 in preparation to relieve Company "C" for conversion. 2nd and 3rd platoons remained in positions maintaining and improving defenses of area.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 9th Infantry Division. Company continued to occupy defensive positions pending relief by other companies for conversion to SP.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 furnished screen for 1st platoon Company "B" going in position vic 750236. Established 2 outposts. One EM WIA and evacuated. Rcn 2 maintained outposts on front line forward of Companies "A" and "B".

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

The enemy continued to improve and occupy his defensive positions. Moderate harrassing mortar fire was received intermittently during the period along with scattered rds of light artillery. Enemy aircraft was comparatively inactive over the Battalion sector during the period.

25 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

a. No change.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion . . . . .	680183
Company A . . . . .	765175
Company B . . . . .	708268
Company C . . . . .	720220

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Supports 99th Infantry Division. Moved to new positions in vic of 765175; A-1 779195; A-2 762147; A-3 793193. The Company moved across the WIED River to follow up and to support the action of the 99th Infantry Division. Captured 3 enemy prisoners.

COMPANY "B" -- Company CP and the 2nd and 3rd platoons moved to III Corps northern boundry in support of the 9th Infantry Division in the vic of: Company CP 708268; B-2 743273; B-3 734278. B-1 remained in position in vic 744236, maintaining and improving positions. Captured 5 enemy prisoners.

COMPANY "C" -- Supports 9th Infantry Division. Locations: Company 720220; C-1 739225; C-2 727245; C-3 723213. Company continued to occupy defensive positions pending relief by other companies for conversion to SP. Improvements in position and camouflage were carried out.

**SECRET**

57

**SECRET**

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 furnished screen for 1st platoon Company "B" in vic 744238. Manned outposts and used as security for gun positions. Rcn 2 furnished screen for the movement of Company "A". Location of CP in vic 765175. Manned outposts and used as security for gun positions.

3. **ENEMY ACTIVITY**

Enemy artillery fire continued to be of a harassing and interdictory nature mostly of a light caliber and of light intensity. There were no enemy aircraft reported over the Battalion sector during the period.

26 March, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

a. No change.

b. **CP LOCATIONS:**

Battalion . . . . .	680183
Company A . . . . .	765175
Company B . . . . .	706125
Company C . . . . .	706125

2. **OPERATIONS:**

COMPANY "A" -- Company remained in same positions supporting the action of the 99th Infantry Division. Preparations are being made for departure to the conversion area.

COMPANY "B" -- Left old positions at 2100 hrs and closed in at the conversion area at 0055 March 26, 1945. The conversion area is in the vic of HONNINGEN (706125). Relieved of support of the 9th Infantry Division.

COMPANY "C" -- Left old positions at 1415 hrs and closed in at HONNINGEN (706125) at 1630 hours for the purpose of converting to self-propelled. Relieved of support of the 9th Infantry Division.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS -- Rcn 1 - Relieved of support for B Company leaving their old positions at 1730 hrs. and closing in at their new positions in the vic of 680183 at 1840 hrs. for the purpose of maintenance and regrouping in preparation for a new assignment. Rcn 2 - Remained in same area in the vic of (765175, in support of "A" Company. Personnel used in outposts and security for gun positions.

27 MARCH, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

a. All units of this Battalion have been assembled in the vic of: "A" Company, 688154; Company "B", 706125; Company "C", 706125; for the purpose of conversion. Companies "B" and "C" have drawn their M-18 Destroyers and all necessary equipment except the ammunition trailers m-10. "B" and "C" Companies, who are assembled in the vicinity of

**SECRET**

54



**S E C R E T**

HONNINGEN and will be prepared for any combat mission at 1200 today.

b. **CP LOCATIONS:**

Battalion . . . . .	680183
Company A . . . . .	688154
Company B . . . . .	706125
Company C . . . . .	706125

2. **OPERATIONS:** None.

28 March, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

- a. All units of this Battalion have been assembled for the purpose of conversion. Companies "B" and "C" have drawn their M-18 Destroyers and all necessary equipment except the ammunition trailers M-10.

b. **CP LOCATIONS:** No change.

2. **OPERATIONS:**

COMPANY "A" — In the process of conversion.

COMPANY "B" — Conversion completed and awaiting further orders

COMPANY "C" — Conversion completed and attached in support to 14th Cavalry Group as of 271350 March, 1945. Company placed on a one hour alert awaiting further orders.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOONS — In the process of organization. Rcn 2 placed on a one hour alert awaiting orders to accompany Company "C" on its mission.

29 March, 1945

1. **SITUATION:**

- a. Battalion attached to 8th T. D. Group. Battalion Forward (TAC) CP left old area at 1400 hours and closed in present position in the vicinity of NDR WEIDBACH (527342) at 2100 hours. 36 Operational M-5 Guns and 36 Operational Prime Movers have been turned in to Ordnance.

2. **CP LOCATIONS:**

Battalion C.P (TAC) . . . . .	527342
Battalion Fwd . . . . .	680183
Company "A" . . . . .	688154
Company "B" . . . . .	358234
Company "C" . . . . .	279124

**S E C R E T**

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2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" — In the process of conversion.

COMPANY "B" — Left old area at 1700 hours and closed in BEILSTEIN (358234) at 0300 hours, 29 March, 1945.

COMPANY "C" — Left old area at 1230 hours to fulfill assignment of attached in support to 14th Cavalry Group and proceeded to LAHR (279124). At 1316 hours a message was received to the effect that "C" Company was relieved of attachment in support to the 14th Cavalry Group and reverted back to Battalion and 8th T. D. Group control. Company is now in the vicinity of LAHR (279124).

RCN COMPANY — Rcn 1 left old area at 1700 hours and closed in BEILSTEIN (358234) at 0300 hours March 29, 1945 where they are in support of "B" Company. Rcn 2 left old area at 1230 hours and closed in at LAHR at 1700 hours where they are in support of "C" Company

30 March, 1945

1. SITUATION:

- a. Tactical CP located in vic NDR WEIDBACH. Friendly soldiers reported enemy in the vicinity of (470320). Patrols worked the area for several hours with negative results. CP personnel picked up 9 PWs in NDR WEIDBACH which were turned over to a PW enclosure.

b. CP LOCATIONS:

Battalion (TAC) . . . . .	527342
Battalion fwd CP . . . . .	080183
Company "A" . . . . .	088154
Company "B" . . . . .	358234
Company "C" . . . . .	479334
Recon CP . . . . .	080183

2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- In the process of conversion. Have received 10 M-16s. Preparations for movement to forward area completed.

COMPANY "B" — Performed maintenance and received instruction on new vehicles. Enemy soldiers were reported in the area by civilians. Patrols searched the area and captured 3 PWs who were taken to the PW cage.

COMPANY "C" — Moved from its position at LAHR (279124) at 1715 hours and closed in new area in the vicinity of OFFENBACH (479334) at 1930 hrs.

RCN COMPANY — Company officiall activated with 1st Platoon in support of "B" Company, 2nd Platoon in support of "C" Company and 3rd Platoon accompanying tactical CP, awaiting arrival of "A" Company whom it will support. 1st Platoon captured 2 PWs while on patrol.

~~SECRET~~

56

# SECRET

31 March, 1945

## 1. SITUATION

a. Tactical CP located in NDR WEIDBACH. Security patrols captured 1 German soldier. Forward CP moved from old area at LINZ at 0830 and closed in new area ALLENSTADEN (533294) at 1700 hours.

## b. CP LOCATIONS:

Tactical CP . . . . .	527342
Forward CP . . . . .	533294
Reconnaissance Company. . . . .	527342
Company "A" . . . . .	489304
Company "B" . . . . .	512316
Company "C" . . . . .	479334

## 2. OPERATIONS:

COMPANY "A" -- Completed conversion and left old area at 0600 hours and closed in new area via BEILERSDORF (489304) at 1300 hours.

COMPANY "B" -- Company left BEILSTEIN at 1300 hours. Closed in new area vicinity ALLENSTADEN (512316) at 1600 hours. Security patrols picked up 3 German prisoners.

COMPANY "C" -- Remained in present position OFFENBACH. Preparing for future engagements. Security patrols picked up 5 German prisoners.

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY -- Company Headquarters now located in NDR WEIDBACH (527342). One Recon platoon in support of each Gun Company. Pioneer platoon moved out at 1805 hours to ELGERSHAUSEN CLINIC (393234). Mission given by 6th I. D. Group to contain all military personnel and thoroughly search the premises. This mission is being performed.



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

**SECRET**

817TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

S-1 ADMINISTRATIVE ANNEX FOR OPERATIONS REPORT PERIOD 1 MAR 45 to 31 MAR 45

	BATTLE CASUALTIES					TOTAL SICK AND NON-BATTLE CASUALTIES
	KILLED	WOUNDED	MISSING	CAPTURED	TOTAL	
OFFICERS	0	2	0	0	2	0
E. M.	3	13	0	0	16	9
TOTAL	3	15	0	0	18	9

REINFORCEMENTS

	Officers	Enlisted Men	Total
6 March, 1945	0	1	1
16 March, 1945	0	7	7
22 March, 1945	1	0	1
23 March, 1945	1	4	5
TOTAL	2	12	14

Battalion reorganized under Table of Organization and Equipment 18-25 and changes thereto, the 27th of March, 1945.  
Reconnaissance Company activated 27th of March, 1945.

STATUS OF SUPPLIES

1. STATUS OF SUPPLY FOR MONTH OF MARCH, 1945:

a. During month status of supply did not change.

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.