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HEADQUARTERS
618TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

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 : AUTH: CG 26 Inf Div:
 : DATE: 23 May 48
 : UNIT: *AK* JMS Adj.:
 : 618th TD Battalion:

AFPO 436, US Army
 23 May 48

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Enemy Report.

TO : Commanding General,
 26th Infantry Division,
 APO 26, US Army.

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, change 4, AR 345-1055 the following report is submitted for the period 1 May 48 to 9 May 48 inclusive:

1. PERSONNEL:

a. Total effective strength at beginning of period:

39 O 1 WO 603 EM Total 643

At end of period:

40 O 1 WO 597 EM Total 638

b. Killed: None

Wounded: None

Missing: None

c. Reinforcements received:

1 O 3 EM Total 5 (All RFD's)

2. RECAPITULATION OF PERSONNEL FOR REPORT PERIOD 14 Jul 44 to 9 May 48 incl:

a. Personnel:

(1) Effective strength on 14 Jul 44:

Hq Co	120	1 WO	110 EM	Total	123
Co A	50		124 EM	Total	129
Co B	50		124 EM	Total	129
Co C	50		123 EM	Total	128
Rein Co	50		119 EM	Total	125
Med Det	10		17 EM	Total	18
TOTAL	340	1 WO	617 EM		653

Effective strength 9 May 48:

Hq Co	140	1 WO	101 EM	Total	116
Co A	70		129 EM	Total	136
Co B	50		119 EM	Total	124
Co C	70		129 EM	Total	128
Rein Co	60		104 EM	Total	110
Med Det	10	1 WO	15 EM	Total	16
TOTAL	400	1 WO	597 EM		638

(2) Killed in action:

Hq Co	None				
Co A	5 EM	Total	5		
Co B	9 EM	Total	9		
Co C 1 O	4 EM	Total	5		
Rein Co	4 EM	Total	4		
Med Det	None				
TOTAL	1 O	22 EM	Total	23	

(3) Wounded in action (Hospitalized)

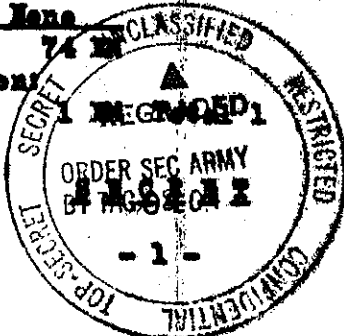
Hq Co	5 EM				
Co A	20	24 EM			
Co B	30	24 EM			
Co C	10	13 EM			
Rein Co		10 EM			
Med Det	None				
TOTAL	60	74 EM			

(Remained Duty)

20	5 EM	Total	8
30	20 EM	Total	49
10	8 EM	Total	36
10	3 EM	Total	13
10	2 EM	Total	13
	None		
80	36 EM		124

(4) Missing in action:

Co A



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(5) Died of wounds, non-battle:

Hq Co	1 EM	Total	1
Co A	1 EM	Total	1
Co C	1 EM	Total	1
TOTAL	3 EM		3

(6) Reinforcements received during period 14 Jul 44 to 9 May 45:

	New		RTD's		Total		Total
	Off	EM	Off	EM	Off	EM	
Hq Co	1	8	1	8	2	16	18
Co A	4	42	3	31	7	73	80
Co B	5	38	1	34	6	62	68
Co C	3	35	1	30	4	65	69
Rcn Co	1	14	0	22	1	36	37
Med Det	0	2	0	1	0	3	3
TOTAL	14	139	6	116	20	255	275

(7) Awards and Decorations from 16 Jul 44 to 9 May 45:

	MC	DSO	Silver Star	Bronze Star	Croix de Guerre	Purple H
Hq Co	0	0	8	26	0	8
Co A	0	0	3	28	0	49
Co B	0	0	4	17	0	36
Co C	0	0	2	14	8	18
Rcn Co	0	1*	5	16	2	13
Med Det	0	0	0	8	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	16	109	2	124

* Recommendation submitted

(8) Unit Citations:

a. Company B cited by Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division, General Order Number 41, 12 Nov 44 for action during period 23 Aug 44 to 26 Aug 44 inclusive in the vicinity of NEMOURS GREN-SUN-LOING and MONTEBAU, France.

b. Company B cited by Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division, General Orders Number 3, 14 Jan 45 for action during period 9 Sep 44 to 15 Sep 44 inclusive in the vicinity of ARNAVILLE and ARRY, France.

(9) Battle Participation Awards:

- a. Normandy Campaign
- b. Northern France Campaign
- c. German Campaign (PHINEYARD)
- d. Ardennes Campaign (Battle credit not yet authorized)
- e. central Europe

3. ENEMY:

a. Identifications: During this period the enemy was so disorganized that he was not able to commit any units of Division size. Units identified were a very large number of miscellaneous units, mostly of company size. These were organized into makeshift units such as alarm companies, march units, straggler units, etc. Many units were rear echelon, air force, convalescents, etc.

b. During this period the en was not capable of organized defense and at no time was there an organized defense line. Rather the en depended on delaying actions at sporadic intervals combined with road blocks and demolitions to slow our advances. In many instances no resistance at all was encountered.

c. Enemy losses during period as a results of action of 818th TD Bn only: 100 casualties (estimated).

d. PW's captured by 818th TD Bn: 4,205.

e. Enemy morale was varied, some troops resisting to the end. However the great majority of enemy troops realized that the war was lost and were perfectly willing to surrender or withdraw without much fight; this was true of all Hungarian units, a large number of which were encountered. An equipment was depleted in many respects. The enemy was largely dependent on horse-drawn transport, having few vehicles and less gasoline. The enemy was without artillery, air and armored support. There were instances of replacements arriving at the front even without small arms.

f. Number of tanks, guns, etc, destroyed by each company for entire period of operations, 15 Jul 44 to 9 May 45:

	Co A	Co B	Co C	Rcn	Hq	Total
Tanks destroyed	12	14	13			39

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	I I C H I I					Total
	Co A	Co B	Co C	Res Co	Hq	
Armored vehicles	2	4	5			11
MG nests	2	4	17			24
AA guns	2	1	4	16		10
AF Guns	2	3	4			9
OPs	1	2	5			8
Wheeled vehicles	2	2	10	2		16
PV's	173	85	79	5656	281	6274
En reported killed or wounded (confirmed)	98	19	27	2	20	192
Mortars	2	1	1			4
Amo dumps	1		1			2
Fill boxes	2	23	23			52
Locomotives			1			1
Airplanes		1				1

4. OWN OPERATIONS:

a. Forces engaged: Throughout the period of action the 81st FD Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div, asgt to XII Corps, Third Army. The 5th Inf Div was operating on our left flank. The 11th Armored Div was in the zone of and in front of the 26th Inf Div. The 65th Inf Div XI Corps was on our right flank on the south side of the DANUBE R.

b. Reserves: The Div was attacking in zone with 2 Regts abreast and one in reserve; this placed one TB Co in reserve. Of the 2 TB Co's attd to the 2 Inf Regts on line, there was usually one platoon of each Co in reserve. The platoons were generally in D/S of the Inf Bns which were usually employed two Bns on line and one in reserve.

c. Throughout the remaining period of action, the 81st FD Bn was attd to 26 Inf Div which was on the offensive as part of the XII Corps, Third Army, driving, rounding up and destroying the last remaining enemy forces within the US occupation zone in SW Germany, NW Austria, and NW Czechoslovakia. There was little or no enemy resistance to the Div advance and no enemy armor was encountered or seen.

On 1 May 45, Co A (less 2d pl) attd to 101 Inf moved to pos to await establishment of bridgehead across DANUBE R via PASSEAU Q315123. Co CP moved to RUDERLING Q143216. 1st pl captured 20 German soldiers via SCHOELLNACH Q365223. As of 29 Apr Co A 2d pl supported 26 Res Tr in taking FITTLING Q143297, fired 60 rds MM, 1800 rds cal 50 and 500 rds 30 cal carbine. Heavy casualties were inflicted and pl assisted in capturing 150 German soldiers. Co B attd to 104 Inf moved in spt of Inf Bns. Co CP moved to GERMANWEDORF Q366210. Co C (less 2d pl) attd to 328 Inf moved in spt of Inf Bns. Co CP moved to WINPASSING Q332185. 2d pl with 1st Bn 328 Inf attd to 101 Inf and are in area of 101 Inf. Res Co continued patrolling and clearing Div rear and patrolling MSR. 44 en soldiers were picked up by patrols. Bn CP moved to FITTLING Q147297.

On 2 May Co A with 101 Inf remained in pos on N side of DANUBE R. Co CP moved to MAAS Q314184. Co B attd to 104 Inf, moved in spt of Regt. Co CP moved to SARLINSBACH Q546126, crossing border into AUSTRIA at 1100 hrs. Pls moving SE in spt of Inf Bns. 2d pl captured 5 en soldiers at SARLINSBACH. Co C attd to 328 Inf moved in spt of Regt. Co CP moved to OB KAPPEL Q447126, crossing AUSTRIAN border at 1800 hrs. Pls moving SE in spt of Inf Bns. Res Co patrols picked up 52 en soldiers, in and out of uniform. Bn CP personnel captured 3 German soldiers.

On 3 May Co A CP moved to Q332188; 1st pl moving SE of WEGSCHNID; 2d pl moved to RHEISS. 2d pl w/ 26 Res Tr is located at RAGLING. Co B no change. Co C attd to CP 328 as per Frag O 568 and was given mission of following up 11th Armd Div and clearing the Div E of advance. Co C and 2d pl moved to HOPKIRCHEN Q423053; 1st pl to Q332086; 2d pl to OB KAPPEL. Bn CP & Res Co to GRIBENBACH Q367143. Res Co continued patrolling and clearing Div rear and patrolling MSR. Patrols captured 10 enemy soldiers. Hq Co moved to Q332195.

On 4 May Co A (less 2d pl) attd to 101 Inf moved in sector clearing behind CP 328. Co CP moved to ALTHENDF. Co B attd to 104 Inf, moved to sector clearing behind CP 328. Co CP moved to NEUBER WALDKIRCHEN Q395034. Co C attd to CP 328 under operation control of 11th Armored Div. Co CP moved to BOTTENHOF Y731945. Pls moving towards URFARN with Inf Bns. Res Co patrols captured 10 en soldiers.

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On 5 May Co A remained in same positions. Co B atchd to CP 104 which is in process of moving to new Regt'l sector, relieving elements of 8th Inf Div and attacking NE to CZECHOSLOVAKIAN border. Co B pls on move with Inf Bns. Co C CP and 3d pl moved to WALKING YESSEZ; 1st pl to WITTE FAHR; 2d pl to KRANITZHEDE. Rem Co apprehended 20 en soldiers while patrolling and clearing Div rear.

On 6 May Co A (less 2d pl atchd to CP 101 moved to new Regt'l sector and pls in supporting Inf Bns in adv to NE. Co CP moved to GLOCKENBERG Q590330 crossing into CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 2d pl atchd to 26 Ren Tr which is atchd to 101 Inf advanced in new sector. Co B CP moved to FRIEDBERG Q725270 crossing into CZECHOSLOVAKIA; pls moving NE in support of Inf Bns. Co C atchd to CP 323 reverted to 26 Div control at 1200 hrs as per Frag O 578. Co C pls in process of moving to new Regt'l sector. Rem Co continued patrolling Div rear and MSE and apprehended 41 en soldiers.

On 7 May 45 Co A (less 2d pl) with 101 Inf remained in position on Div O. Co A CP moved to FRIEDBERG Q590408; 1st pl at GRIHANS; 3d pl at KOZI STAN. 2d pl with 26 Ren Tr at Q554398. Co B with 104 Inf remained in position on Div. O. Co CP at FRIEDBERG Q725270; 1st pl at MUEHLEN; 2d pl at MILNA; 3d pl at LANDBERG. Co C with 323 Inf remained in present position. Co CP & 3d pl via LEUMFELDEN, Austria Q823-128; 1st pl at WRIGHTSCHLAG, Austria; 2d pl at STUENKOP Czech. Rem Co patrols apprehended 51 enemy soldiers during day. En CP personnel rounded up a total of 160 Hungarian soldiers.

On 8 May gun companies remained in same locations, atchd to Inf Regts. Maintenance on vehicles being performed. Rem Co picked up 268 enemy soldiers on patrols through Div rear.

On 9 May 45 Co A 2d pl released from attachment to 26 Ren Tr as per Frag O 589 and reverted to Co control. All companies no change. WAR OFFICIALLY ENDED at 0001 this morning.

d. Results of Operations: At 0001 hours 9 May 1945, the war was officially over. The 5 Inf Regts with the respective TD Co's atchd, were disposed on line with forces in a defensive position inside of the CZECHOSLOVAKIAN border. During the nine days of the period the gun companies accounted for the capture of 25 enemy soldiers and assisted in capturing 130 more. Rem Co apprehended a total of 475 enemy personnel while patrolling and clearing Div rear. Hq Co picked up a total of 163 enemy soldiers.

e. Marches of Bn CP: 1805 hrs 1 May 45 Bn started march to new CP area in FITTLING, Germany, arriving there at 1530 hrs, traveling a distance of 3 miles. Roads poor; weather cloudy, cold with snow. 1400 hrs 3 May Bn CP left on march to vic of GRIBERACH, Germany, arriving there at 1630 hrs, traveling a distance of 41 miles. Roads very poor and muddy, weather cloudy, cold with snow. 1400 hrs 12 May 45 Bn CP and Hq Co started march to new area via KOUCOVICE, Czechoslovakia, arriving there at 1700 hrs 12 May traveling a distance of 49 miles. Weather fair, roads fair. Bn CP remained in this position at end of period.

- f. Miles marched by Bn CP for entire campaign, 14 Jul 44 to 9 May 45:
- July 1944 - 49 miles - Utah Beach, France to Granville, France.
 - Aug 1944 - 641 miles - Granville, France to Reims, France.
 - Sept 1944 - 137 miles - Reims, France to Pagny-Sur-Moselle, France.
 - Oct 1944 - 40 miles - Pagny-Sur-Moselle, France to Jeppcourt, France.
 - Nov 1944 - 106 miles - Jeppcourt, France to Peltre, France.
 - Dec 1944 - 148 miles - Peltre, France to Grevels-Bresil, Luxembourg.
 - Jan 1945 - 111 miles - Grevels-Bresil, Luxembourg to Berns, Germany.
 - Feb 1945 - 0 miles - Berns, Germany for entire period.
 - Mar 1945 - 290 miles - Berns, Germany to Schlierbach, Germany.
 - Apr 1945 - 423 miles - Schlierbach, Germany to Furstenstein, Germany.
 - May 1945 - 93 miles - Furstenstein, Germany to Kienberg, Czechoslovakia.
- TOTAL-----3048 miles.

g. Ammunition expended by Bn for entire campaign 14 Jul 44 to 9 May 45. (These figures from daily S-3 reports only):

MONTH	HE DIRECT	HE INDIRECT	APC DIRECT	.50 Cal	.30 Cal
	COMPANY "A"				
July	0	178	0	0	0
Aug	0	0	0	0	0
Sept	442	0	9	0	0
Oct	0	300	0	0	0
Nov	75	200	10	0	0
Dec	129	237	12	0	530

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MONTH	RE DIRECT	RE INDIRECT	AP'S DIRECT	.50 Cal	.30 Cal
<u>COMPANY "A" (cont)</u>					
Jan	76	0	8	0	0
Feb	85	1149	48	0	0
Mar	86	535	46	4000	750
Apr	113	0	0	1575	0
May	60	0	0	1500	500
TOTAL	1066	2689	128	5475	1750

<u>COMPANY "B"</u>					
July	0	793	0	0	0
Aug	230	0	28	0	0
Sep	115	0	252	0	0
Oct	14	7991	0	0	0
Nov	187	0	42	300	0
Dec	233	0	26	700	0
Jan	20	0	0	1000	0
Feb	106	673	186	0	0
Mar	129	0	179	3100	4000
Apr	184	0	4	5200	1650
May	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1158	9457	697	10200	6150

<u>COMPANY "C"</u>					
Jul	20	0	21	0	0
Aug	127	0	59	0	0
Sep	28	1378	20	300	0
Oct	0	2692	0	0	0
Nov	206	2019	13	750	0
Dec	84	0	56	100	200
Jan	75	96	11	500	0
Feb	162	401	294	0	0
Feb	162	401	294	0	0
Mar	77	0	112	0	750
Apr	119	0	11	3200	3000
May	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	898	6886	627	5950	3950

<u>REG CO</u>					
Sept	37	0	0	0	0
May	12	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	50	0	0	0	0

HQ CO

1000

BATTALION TOTALS

5123 3" & 90mm	18752 3" & 90mm	1452 3" & 90mm	17785 50 Cal	12880 50 Cal
50 87mm		6 87mm		



4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION:

a. During the time covered by this report, the Battalion was attached to the 26th Inf Div. All supplies were handled through normal channels of the Div. Their supply branches serviced the Battalion with the exception of class V and Ord class II supplies which were drawn from the assigned Corps and Army installations. The asgd Ord unit was the 501st Heavy Tank Ordnance Co which took care of all requisitions, replacements, and third echelon maintenance. In motor maintenance platoon and the company motor maintenance sections performed first and second echelon maintenance. Bogie wheels and rear idlers still remained very critical during the entire period.

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b. Rations for the month have been 100% operational type, with a variation of 10 in L, G's, and K's being used. The Battalion did not draw RAS kits during this period.

c. Ammunition: Basic load was maintained by replacement as expended.

d. Status of supply at close of period:

BRANCH	ON HAND
Ordnance	75%
QM	100%
Medical	100%
GW	100%
Engineer	100%
Signal	95%

e. Major shortages at close of period:

- 5 ea M36
- 1 ea Tank Recovery vehicle M36
- 1 ea $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 6x6
- 1 ea $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 4x4
- 1 ea Light Tank M5
- 1 ea Car, Armored light M5
- 3 ea Radios, SCR 608.

f. Evacuation of personnel was through MIA Aid station and Regt'l Medical units.

C. L. Hail

G. L. HAIL,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
COMMANDING.



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