

HEADQUARTERS 820TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 339 U.S. ARMY

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT

1 May 1945 to 8 May 1945
(Inclusive)

1 May 1945

Battalion attached to 97th Infantry Division.
Battalion C.P. and Rear echelon at Wieden (P201290).

Reconnaissance Company and Pioneer platoon at Wieden (P201290).

First platoon (attached "B" Company). Reconnoitered route for Third Platoon, "B" Company, to Boheslar, Labut, and North Sedliste. From Hostka the First section preceded the destroyers into North Sedliste and also acted as advance security for two destroyers on mission of taking Primda. Second section moved with "B" Company, 386th Infantry to vic St. Vistilarie and Schonwald.

Second platoon attached "C" Company. First section did route reconnaissance from Tirschenreuth to Posall. Second section acted as advance security for First platoon, "C" Company, on the move from Barnau to Wuttelaut.

Third platoon attached "A" Company. Did route reconnaissance from Eslarn (P452200) to Schonau and then to Bela N Radb and Ujezo.

"A" Company

Attached 387th Infantry. C.P. and First platoon moved from Moosbach (P324240) was joined by second platoon and Third Reconnaissance platoon at Eslarn and entire group preceded to Eisendorf (P502208).

"B" Company.

Attached 386th Infantry. C.P. and First platoon at Vohenstraus (P324240). First section, Second platoon, moved from Newkirchen (P380337) to Schonwald (P455295). Second section advanced with Company "B", 386th Infantry, from Zebraky (P490356) in push on St. Sedliste. Third platoon supported Infantry in attack on St. Sedliste and town was taken by 1830. Captured and destroyed 200 potato masher grenades, 2 MG's, Mauser pistols, 80 Panzerfaust, 200 rounds of Panzerfaust ammunition.

"C" Company

Attached 303rd Infantry. C.P. at Tirschenreuth (P307530). First platoon moved east from Branau firing 54 rounds 76 MM HE into wooded areas occupied by enemy infantry. Second platoon remained with Company C.P.. Third platoon remained at (P278604).

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2 May 1945

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P. and Pioneer platoon no change in location

Company commander with elements of "B" Company took part in clearing town of St. Katerina (P300505). Pioneer platoon investigated reports of SS troops being in Waldau (P3025) but failed to find any.

First platoon. First section acted as advance security in clearing town of Runl T (P605335). Met only slight resistance. Second section screened destroyers firing on Tachov.

Second platoon. First section acted as advance security in advance of Second platoon, "C" Company, on Grossenkreuth (P3754). Second platoon operated an O.P. for First platoon, "C" Company.

Third platoon did route and area reconnaissance for "A" Company.

"A" Company.

Remained in readiness position in Eisendorf.

"B" Company.

C.P. and First platoon moved from Vohenstraus to Hostka (P502330).

Second platoon moved to Schonbrunn (P502425) to support the attack on Tachov. Fired 96 rounds 76MM HE and 12 rounds APC direct fire at targets of opportunity.

Third platoon left Zirkeurath (P278604) moving to Rosall (P324586) and on to (P376598) without meeting any resistance.

3 May 1945

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company

C.P. and Pioneer platoon no change.

First platoon. First section observed approaches to Bor. Second section moved to Tachov at 1000 hours and remained there for the balance of the day and over night.

Second platoon acted as advance security for Second platoon, "C" Company, in its move through Lauter, Laub, Ahornberg, and then to Mahring. One 88 MM AT gun was destroyed by 37MM fire.

Third platoon moved from Eisendorf to Weiden with "A" Company. On arrival at Weiden platoon was released from attachment to "A" Company and reverted to Reconnaissance Company control.

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)

3 May 1945 (Cont'd)

“A” Company.

Relieved from attachment to 387th Infantry and attached to 922nd FA Battalion. Moved from Eisendorf to Weiden. Departed Weiden 2000 hours to join 922nd FA Battalion.

“B” Company.

C.P. and First platoon no change.

Second platoon moved to vic Tachov and set up road blocks north and east of town. Received enemy artillery while going into position. No change in position of Third platoon. Fired 5 rounds 76MM HE into enemy foot troops crossing a field at about 2100 hours.

“C” Company.

C.P. no change.

First platoon moved east to (P455435) meeting no enemy.

Second platoon aided in capture of towns of Laub (P388519), Ahornburg (P379500), Marchaney (P368504), and Brunn (P350503). Encountered many mines in road net in this area. Returned to Grossenkreuth and advanced from there to Mahring (P436565). At (P424555) one M-18 destroyer was lost when a projectile from 88 MM AT gun ricocheted from paved road and pierced hull under assistant drivers seat, killing the assistant driver. This gun was destroyed by 37 MM fire from Reconnaissance platoon and two other 88's were destroyed by fire from destroyers in the platoon. In addition twelve enemy were killed and 22 taken prisoner.

Third platoon had no action

4 May 1945

Battalion C.P. and rear echelon no change

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P., Pioneer, and Third platoon no change.

First platoon no change.

Second platoon. First section was advance security for move of Second platoon, “C” Company from Mahring to Zd Chedov (P531549). Second section did route reconnaissance from Gronberg to Litteir.

“A” Company

Completed move to Schonbrunn (P502427) at 0200. First and Second platoons took up indirect fire positions vic Schonbrunn at 0730 and registered at 1500. Fired 45 rounds unobserved fire on enemy infantry with good results.

“B” Company.

No change in platoon locations. C.P. moved from Hostka to Castov (P555602) at

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)

4 May 1945 (cont'd)

1830. Enemy patrols sighted by Second platoon but no action.

“C” Company.

C.P. no change.

First platoon fired on enemy occupied houses at (P522482) and suspected gun positions at (P512474). Moved to (P503479).

Second platoon moved from Mahrng at 1400 to Zd Chedov (P531549) receiving 105 MM and mortar fire. Captured one PW.

Third platoon moved back to Neualbenreuth (P375640) at 1700 hours.

5 May 1945

Battalion less “C” Company and Second Reconnaissance platoon relieved from attachment to 97th Infantry Division and attached 386th Infantry

Battalion C.P. moved from Weiden to St. Sedliste (P573383). Rear echelon remained at Weiden.

Reconnaissance Company

Less First and Second platoons moved from Weiden to St. Sedliste (P573383).

First platoon acted as advance security for Third platoon, “B” Company, from St. Sedliste to Su Jan, Beydekau, Demnov, and Oselin. Met slight resistance at Oselin.

Second platoon supported infantry in attack on Chodova Plana (P585558).

Third platoon attached to “A” Company, joining it at 1200.

“A” Company.

Fired 64 rounds harassing and interdiction fire from 0100 to 0400. Relieved from 922nd FA Battalion and attached to Second Battalion, 386th Infantry. Moved to Primda (P562310). Advanced to Vel Dovorice (P5832) where “G” Company of 386th Infantry was picked up on the destroyers. Moved on to Bor (P632357) where “G” Company was dropped. Company then advanced with “F” Company of 386th Infantry to Stribo (P7881) meeting only slight opposition.

“B” Company.

Attached to First Battalion, 386th Infantry. C.P. moved from Castov to Tachov (P522445) at 1145 with First platoon.

Second platoon advanced with “A” Company, 386th Infantry through Oldrichov (P545444), Kilcov (P586456), Badov (P594465), Sun Jan ((P595446), Janov (P607448), Paulo, Wice, and Vilovice (P622459). During this advance knocked out one artillery piece and met moderate resistance.

Third platoon advanced with “B” Company, 386th Infantry through Jemnice (P604423), Bezdecen (P625432), and to Oselin (P680427).

“C” Company. C.P. moved from Tirschenreuth to Chodova Plana (P585558).

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5 May 1945 (Cont'd)

First platoon moved to Plana at 1800 hours but had no action.

Second platoon moved from Zd Chodova to Chodova Plana from which place it fired on Dol Kramelin (P596577), Ldzurby (P714581), and Vgs Kovice (P633603).

Third platoon left Neualbenreuth at 0900 to Zd Chodov and aided in the capture of Trstenice (P543582), Drmoul (P534602), and Her Ves (P529581).

6 May 1945

Battalion C.P. moved to Stribo (P788414) arriving at 1730.

Reconnaissance Company.

C.P. and Pioneer platoon moved with Battalion C.P.

First platoon did route reconnaissance from Oselin to Stribo and from there moved with elements of 386th Infantry to Listany (P9151).

Second platoon. First section acted as advance security in attack on Mesto Tepla (P6766). Second section moved from Plano to Lestkov (P682552).

Third platoon proceeded from Stribo to Kozolupy where sniper fire had to be neutralized. Captured 540 enemy EM, 30 Officers, and a train of 50 trucks, 48 horses, and 18 wagons, all of which were turned over to 386th Infantry. Moved on to Vochoh hear where one enemy was killed and eighteen captured, then moved to Vejprnice.

“A” Company.

C.P. with First and Third platoons moved to Krimice (L007436).

Second platoon and Third Reconnaissance platoon moved on to Vejprnice (P988403). Met slight resistance which consisted mostly of leg reinforced dugouts. During this action 825 prisoners were taken.

“B” Company.

First platoon and C.P. moved to Vseruby (P942535) at 1600.

Second platoon moved from Vilevice to Listany with no resistance enroute.

Third platoon moved from Oselin to Noklov taking 6 prisoners enroute.

“C” Company.

Company C.P. no change.

First platoon moved to Lestkov (P682552), did no firing but captured 90 prisoners.

Second platoon took town of Otrocín capturing 250 prisoners, 65 vehicles, 200 rifles, 25 Machine pistols, 25 MG, 60 pistols, and 12 carts loaded with ammunition. Moved on to Meste Tepla (P674662).

Third platoon moved through Merierbad to Meste Tepla and returned to Merierbad to bivouac.

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONT'D)

7 May 1945

Battalion C.P. and Rear echelon no change.

Reconnaissance Company C.P. and Pioneer platoon no change.

First and Second platoons no change.

Third platoon moved from Vejprnice to Kozolupy. No action.

“A” Company.

Entire company assembled at Kozolupy (P966438) at 1300. No action.

“B” Company

No change.

“C” Company

No change.

By 0800 companies had received orders to advance no further.

8 May 1945

No change in location of any units of Battalion. “A” Company was released from attachment to Second Battalion, 386th Infantry, and reverted to Battalion control at 1400.

JOHN F. deV. PATRICK,
Lt. Col., F.A.,
Commanding.