

HEADQUARTERS
314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 80, U. S. Army

11 May 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Reports for Month of April 1945.

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

1. Transmitted herewith are After Action Reports for the Month of April 1945 for this organization, together with Journal and allied papers for the same period.

D. J. Minahan
D. J. MINAHAN,
Lt. Col., F. A.,
Commanding.

2 Incls:

Incl #1 - After Action Reports

Incl #2 - Journal and allied papers.

380-TH (314) - 0.3

OCT 15 1945

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Donald S. ...
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 18 Feb 46

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S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS
314TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 80, U. S. Army

10 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy During Month of April 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

SECTION I

1 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Kirchbauna, Germany. Headquarters Battery 180951, Battery "A" 1918895569, Battery "B" 1896695553, Battery "C" 1883095313, Battery "D" 1916895784, Service Battery 1374.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery:
 - a. Location of hostile Batteries: (19120078) Btry (4 guns).
(18250065) Btry.
 - b. Summary of Enemy Artillery activity: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 33: Time on Target 5, Counter Battery 1, Infantry 14, Mortars 1, Tanks 2, Assault guns 2.
- D. Losses: None
- E. Operations Summary: At about 0800 a minimum of 13 Tiger Royals broke through our lines accompanied by infantry. Tanks were stopped in town of Kirchbauna (180951) by Artillery fire and by 1500 all activity had died down. Eight tanks were "knocked out" by Artillery fire. Battalion displaced at 2140 to positions shown above. Closed at 2230. Distance 4 miles.

2 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Ober Zwehren, Germany. Headquarters Battery 19889874, Battery "A" 1967999435, Battery "B" 1943199594, Battery "C" 1934899034, Battery "D" 19414100245, Service Battery 1481.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery: Time on target 1, Infantry 11, Assault guns 2, Interdiction 8.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced at 1443 to positions shown above 1500. Closed at 1500. Distance 4.1 miles.

3 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Nordshausen, Germany. Headquarters Battery 183994, Battery "A" 1967999435, Battery "B" 1943199594, Battery "C" 1934899034, Battery "D" 1941400254, Service Battery 1481.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

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4 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Nordhausen, Germany. Headquarters Battery 183994, Battery "A" 1967999435, Battery "B" 1943199594, Battery "C" 1934899034, Battery "D" 1941400254, Service Battery 1795.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change in mission. At 0800 943 FA Bn ceased reinforcing our fires. At 1515 943 FA Bn began to again reinforce our fires.

5 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Siebleben, Germany. Headquarters Battery 115644, Battery "A" 1967999435, Battery "B" 1943199594, Battery "C" 19348990361, Battery "D" 1941400254, Service Battery 1899.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to above positions at 1030.

6 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Siebleben, Germany. Headquarters Battery 115644, Battery "A" 1127863005, Battery "B" 1149161928, Battery "C" 1100263020, Battery "D" 1244662220, Service Battery 1899.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 1.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Mission: Direct support of 318th Infantry Regiment. Battalion displaced at 1830 to occupy above firing positions. Closed at 1930. Distance 15.5 miles.

7 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Siebleben, Germany. Headquarters Battery 115644, Battery "A" 1120362931, Battery "B" 1141661854, Battery "C" 1092762643, Battery "D" 1237162146, Service Battery 6792.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 4, Time on target 1.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 Officer, 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

8 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Siebleben, Germany. Headquarters Battery 115644, Battery "A" 1396662370, Battery "B" 1424562139, Battery "C" 1448161822, Battery "D" 1491861118, Service Battery 0365.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 6, Interdiction 2, Time on target 1.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: At 1530 firing Batteries started displacing to above positions. Closed at 1730. Distance 2 1/2 miles.

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9 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 200633, Battery "A" 2080163311, Battery "B" 2093363661, Battery "C" 2159163819, Battery "D" 2445265048, Service Battery 0365.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 32, Time on target 4, Infantry 11, Machine gun 9, Mortars 2, Vehicles 2, Interdiction 1.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to above positions. Started at 1320. Closed at 1345. Distance 6.2 miles.

10 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Ingersleben, Germany. Headquarters Battery 252632, Battery "A" 2641663160, Battery "B" 2607963618, Battery "C" 2776463637, Battery "D" 2700766357, Service Battery 0365.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 28, Infantry 7, Machine gun 2, Tanks 1, Interdiction 13.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to above positions at 0935. Closed at 1015. Distance 4 miles. At 1400 204 FA Bn ceased reinforcing our fires (155H). At 1330 662 FA Bn commenced reinforcing our fires (8"H).

11 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Bischleben, Germany. Headquarters Battery 28146405, Battery "A" 2945663974, Battery "B" 2958864500, Battery "C" 2776463637, Battery "D" 2700766357, Service Battery 1064.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 22.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: At 1200 Chemical Mortars left our control. At 1308 "A" and "B" Batteries displaced to above positions. Closed at 1320. Distance 3.2 miles. At 1600 662 FA Bn (8"H) ceased reinforcing our fires.

12 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Closewitz, Germany. Headquarters Battery 695694, Battery "A" 6883468309, Battery "B" 6883468309, Battery "C" 6879068523, Battery "D" 6879068523, Service Battery 2462.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: At 0800 Battalion mission changed to General Support of 80th Division Artillery. At 1030 Battalion left positions at Bischleben. Closed into firing positions vicinity Kotschau (6369) at 1300. Distance 27 miles. At 1747 Battalion moved into positions shown above. Closed at 1812. Distance 4 mile.

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13 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Gosdorf, Germany. Headquarters Battery 361680, Battery "A" 3622667737, Battery "B" 3663867891, Battery "C" 3653867689, Battery "D" 3639467923, Service Battery 3667.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion reverted to Direct Support 318th Infantry Regiment at 2330 as per FM#185, Headquarters, 80th Division Artillery, 13 April 1945. Battalion marched with Combat Team at 0810. (Mission of Combat Team to clean-up resistance in wake of CCB 4th Armored Division.) Closed into above firing positions at 2300. Distance 59 miles.

14 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Gosdorf, Germany. Headquarters Battery 361680, Battery "A" 3615067660, Battery "B" 3666667791, Battery "C" 3685167643, Battery "D" 3650867935, Service Battery 3667.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: At 1400 204 FA Bn began to reinforce our fires.

15 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 580667, Battery "A" 5965065736, Battery "B" 5859766315, Battery "C" 5899466740, Battery "D" 6022566248, Service Battery 3667.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 19, Time on target 1, Infantry 6, Propaganda 1, Vehicles 2, Enemy OP 1, Interdiction 3, Harrassing 1.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to positions shown above starting at 1200. Closed at 1330. Distance 18 miles. At 0845 Company "A" 81 Cml Bn came under fire control of this Battalion.

16 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 580667, Battery "A" 5965065736, Battery "B" 5859766315, Battery "C" 5899466740, Battery "D" 6022566248, Service Battery 3667.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 7, Infantry 2, Red Smoke 2, Harrassing 2.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

17 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Enroute to new XX Corps sector.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 1, Harrassing 1.

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17 April 1945 (Cont'd)

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: Battalion as part of 31st Combat Team marched at 1850 to go to new XX Corps Sector. At 0400 204 FA Bn ceased reinforcing our fires.

18 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 329531, Battery "A" 340541, Battery "B" 340541, Battery "C" 329531, Battery "D" 340541, Service Battery 3254.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: Battalion arrived in Bivouac areas shown above at 1330. Distance traveled 203 miles.

19 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 329531, Battery "A" 340541, Battery "B" 340541, Battery "C" 329531, Battery "D" 340541, Service Battery 3254.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: No change.

20 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: Battalion left Bivouac at 1645. Closed into above located Bivouac at 2220 (Nurnburg). Distance 41 miles.

21 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: No change.

22 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: No change.

23 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.

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23 April 1945

445039, Service Battery 445039.

- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

24 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

25 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

26 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Nurnburg, Germany. Headquarters Battery 445039, Battery "A" 445039, Battery "B" 445039, Battery "C" 445039, Battery "D" 445039, Service Battery 445039.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: None.
- E. Operations Summary: No change.

27 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Grass, Germany. Headquarters Battery 174523, Battery "A" 174523, Battery "B" 174523, Battery "C" 174523, Battery "D" 174523, Service Battery 174523.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.
- D. Losses: Personnel: 1 EM.
Equipment: None.
- E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced at 0953. Closed into above Bivouac positions at 2355. Distance 71 miles.

28 April 1945

- A. Location of Unit: Krottenthal, Germany. Headquarters Battery 440246, Battery "A" 4307724519, Battery "B" 4364524304, Battery "C" 4404124045, Battery "D" 4335423848, Service Battery 4726.
- B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.
- C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: None.

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28 April 1945 (Cont'd)

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to above firing positions at 1253. Closed 1920. Distance 40 miles. At 1330 689 FA Bn commenced reinforcing our fires (155H). Mission: Direct Support 318 Combat Team who are advancing in wake of CCR 13 Armored Division.

29 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 50111961, Battery "A" 5021719001, Battery "B" 5080219381, Battery "C" 5055218827, Battery "D" 5057815817, Service Battery 4726.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 6.

D. Losses: Personnel: 3 EM.

Equipment: None.

E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to positions vicinity Lengthal (4720) at 0840. Closed 0915. Distance 4.6 miles. Mission: Direct Support 318 Infantry in crossing Isar River. Battalion displaced to positions shown above at 2025. Closed at 2040. Distance 2.7 miles. At 0700 313 FA Bn commenced reinforcing our fires. At 0950 Company "B" 94 Cml Bn was placed under our fire control. At 1800 752 FA Bn commenced reinforcing our fires.

30 April 1945

A. Location of Unit: Headquarters Battery 52791686, Battery "A" 5376816704, Battery "B" 5280616446, Battery "C" 5456416925, Battery "D" 5050215760, Service Battery 4726.

B. Intelligence of Hostile Artillery: None.

C. Summary of our own Artillery activity: Concentrations fired 2.

D. Losses: None.

E. Operations Summary: Battalion displaced to above positions at 1150. Closed at 1220. Distance 5.5 miles.

Richard J Schalliol
RICHARD J. SCHALLIOL
Major, FA,
S-3

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SECTION II

1 April 1945 - 30 April 1945:

At the beginning of the period Combat Team 318 was committed to capture the Communications Center of Kassel. In the attack on Kassel on 2 April 1945 thirteen (13) enemy tanks succeeded in penetrating the forward Infantry elements leaving nothing but the Artillery to stop them. By use of Air Observation Posts and a series of ground Observation Posts we were able to successfully take the enemy tanks under fire and stop their attack, destroying eight tanks. Kassel was defended by a garrison composed of S.S., Air Corps, and Volkstrum troops recently recruited from the immediate area. This was a positive indication of the extent of disorganization of the enemy forces in this area. Kassel was cleared of enemy forces on 5 April 1945.

After completion of our operations in vicinity of Kassel Combat Team 318 moved to vicinity of Gotha 7 April 1945 with 314th Field Artillery Battalion still in direct support.

From 8 April 1945 to 13 April 1945 the Battalion continued in direct support of the 318th Infantry - the mission being the capture of Erfurt. Numerous strong points were encountered in the small towns guarding the approaches to the city. Notable among these was Schmira (WS 2766) where heavy fighting occurred. After the liquidation of these strong points Erfurt itself was defended by house to house fighting of Air Corps, police, S.S. and Volkstrum remnants.

From 13 April 1945 to 16 April 1945 Combat Team 318 mopped up behind the Fourth Armored Division. Enemy resistance consisted of undefended road blocks, blown bridges, and mines. On 16 April 1945, 314th Field Artillery Battalion went into position in the vicinity of Hartmansdorf (WK 5866). Combat Team 318 relieved the Fourth Armored and prepared to attack the city of Chemnitz.

On 17 April 1945 our mission was changed and Combat Team 318 moved south to an assembly area northeast of Meedensdorf (WO 3253).

On the 21 April 1945 the Battalion moved to Nurnberg (WO 4403) and were placed in Corps reserve. Remained in Nurnberg from 22 April 1945 to 28 April 1945 performing maintenance, conducting schools and general rehabilitation of personnel.

On 28 April 1945 Combat Team 318 moved to assembly area vicinity Grass (WU 1752). 29 April 1945 Combat Team 318 mopped up behind Thirteenth Armored Division. Enemy offered no resistance. 30 April 1945 314th Field Artillery Battalion went into position at Lengthal (WU 4619) to support 318th Infantry's crossing of the Isar river. The Infantry encountered light resistance consisting of small arms and automatic weapons. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire was received on the bridge head.

Michael F. Heneghan
MICHAEL F. HENECHAN
Capt., F. A.
S - 2

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SECTION III

1st April 1945 to 30 April 1945:

The functions of supply during the month were generally satisfactory. Reports are rendered by respective classifications.

CLASS I

The ration issues have been satisfactory.

CLASS II

Replacement of salvaged clothing has been insufficient for the needs of the men. The shortage is more pronounced with regard to field jackets, cotton underwear, and various size shoes. Clothing was issued to this organization on three occasions during the month but inadequate.

CLASS III

During the period our requirements were met very satisfactorily.

CLASS V

Requirements were considerably reduced and resupply was very satisfactory.

MOTOR NOTES

The critical requirement of hot patches for tire repairs and the shortage of tubes and tires for 1/4 ton and 2 1/2 ton vehicles still exists.

Recommendations:

There is a lack of fresh fruits and vegetables which are considered necessary for the continued good health of the men. Condiment issues could also be increased to provide means for baking.

William H. Hassert

WILLIAM H. HASSERT
Capt., 314th FA Bn.
Supply Officer.

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SECTION IV

1 April 1945 - 30 April 1945:

Administrative and operational items handled thru Message Center channels during the month amounted to approximately 750 items.

Contact with Rear Echelon was maintained during the period despite frequent moves which amounted to 598 miles.

Money orders purchased thru the Battalion mail clerk and destined for the U.S.A. amounted to \$10,005.00.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY
(Figures taken from S-1 Reports and Morning Reports up to and including 30 April 1945 for the period 1 April-45 to 30 April-45.)

ENLISTED MEN

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD</u>	<u>NBC</u>
2 Apr							1	2
4 Apr							4	2
5 Apr							1	2
6 Apr							1	
7 Apr								1
8 Apr								1
9 Apr							1	
11 Apr								1
13 Apr								1
14 Apr								1
15 Apr			1			1	1	
16 Apr							1	1
17 Apr								5
18 Apr							1	
20 Apr							1	
21 Apr								1
22 Apr							5	1
24 Apr								2
25 Apr								1
26 Apr								1
28 Apr								1
30 Apr								3
TOTAL			1			1	17	27

OFFICERS

4 Apr							1	
7 Apr								1
8 Apr								1
12 Apr			1			1		
18 Apr		1				1		2
TOTAL		1	1			2	1	4

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