

AAR# 338 U

AFTER ACTION REPORT

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66TH ARMORED F.A. BATTALION

4TH ARMORED DIVISION

1-14 MAY 1944

JULY THRU DEC 1944

JANUARY THRU APRIL 1945

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HEADQUARTERS  
66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: After action report for period covered 15 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. The 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn, a part of C.C. "A" arrived in a bivouac 3 miles south-west of St Calais, France, near St Gerotte, France at 0615 15 August 1944. This completed a 157 mile march in 21 hours and 45 minutes. At 1105 the 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn moved with C.C. "A" toward Orleans, France. Mission was to knockout bridges between Tours, France and Blois, France, seize Orleans, France. No resistance was encountered until the battalion reached the area near Ouzouer. The battalion went into position at 1800 and was registered, but fired no missions. The coordinates of position were 47.88--44.16. That night it was decided that Task Force Bailey would attack Ormes, France at 0800 16 August 1944--Batteries "B" & "C" were to support this attack. Btry "A" was assigned to support Task Force Oden which was to move north to Cercottes and then south into Orleans, France. Observers were attached as follows: Task Force Bailey--Lt Levitt (of the 35th TK Bn); Lt Moorby ("C" of the 10th Inf Bn). Task Force Oden--Lt Mitchell (35th TK Bn); Lt Hampton ("A" of the 10th Inf Bn). On the 16th of August 1944 the attack started as planned. Btry "A", 66th Armd FA Bn with Task Force Oden occupied positions following the attack and this Task Force moved into Orleans, France with very few casualties. Batteries "B" and "C" displaced as follows: Btry "B" 52.3--43.7 at 0800 and registered; Btry "C" 57.3--44.4 at 0800. No missions were fired. Task Force Bailey moved into Orleans, France with very few casualties. There were no casualties in the Artillery. A Combat team from the 35th Div received CC "A" and the 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn moved into an assembly area at 60.5--46.5. Road blocks were established to the north of Orleans and artillery concentrations were prepared to protect them.

b. On the 17th of August the Bn rested and performed maintenance. Col Clarke, CC "A" Commander, presented awards to the following men and officers of the Bn: Lt John Maher--cluster for the air medal--Lt Maher has 92 hours combat flying time. Silver Stars were presented to the following men for their actions at Rennes, France: 1st Sgt Vanderpool, Sgt Yellin, Tec 5 Tetenbaum, Sgt West, & Tec 5 Caruso. The Bronze Star was presented to Col Dell, Tec 5 Lauterio, and PFC Huey. CC "A" was attached to the 35th Div and warned to be ready to move on short notice. A tentative assignment of units placed us in Task Force Oden with Btry "A" 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn in the Advance Guard position. Observers were to be assigned as follows: Lt Levitt with Company "C" of the 35th TK Bn, which was in Task Force West, immediately behind Task Force Oden; Lt Hampton to Company "C" of the 10th Inf Bn.

c. On the 18 of August 1944 the Bn remained in the same area doing maintenance.

d. On the 19th of August 1944 CC "A" received 3 Bn's of Med Arty; two of which were to remain at Orleans, France. One Bn 155 How were attached to CC "A" for move. Did not move, so maintenance was continued.

After action report for period covered 15 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

e. On the 20 August 1944 positions were selected for the 94th Armd En Bn which occupied the positions in the afternoon. 4th AD received mission to seize and hold Sens. Observers were to be assigned as follows: Lt Pfahler to "Co A" of the 35th TK En. Sgt Rejrat to Co "B" of the 35th TK En under Div Arty Control. Cpl Lewis H. Fox of Btry "B" received the Silver Star from Col Clark, CC "A" Commander.

f. On the 21st of August 1944 the Bn moved out at 0800 and at 1900 had closed in a Bivouac position at 77.7--66.7, having traveled 90 miles. March was controlled well and resistance was light. There were no fire missions although Btry "A" occupied 4 positions and were joined by Btrys "B" and "C" in two of these. For the first time in France the Bn was operating in mud. The procedure of having one Btry near the head of the column has proven sound. To date the 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn has traveled 653 miles, all of which has been through enemy territory except the 157 miles from Nantes, France to St Calais. Good 1st Echelon maintenance has been evident due to the small number of vehicular fall-outs. Our position at 77.7--66.7 was surveyed using a 1/100,000 map. Cav and patrols had moved out so far ahead it was not safe to register.

g. On the 22nd of August 1944 the 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn, which had about forgotten what its own guns sounded like, heard the sound of Btry "A" breaking a long artillery silence. Patrols had moved east to Villeneuve L'Archeveque, but in the early morning they were driven back to Foissy, France. It was decided that Btry "A" would support an attack on Ville neuve L'Archeveque, so Btry "A" was displaced to 68.9--80.9. During this very successful attack, the remainder of the Bn displaced to the same vicinity. Btry "A" fired 380 rounds of ammunition in this attack; and several vehicles and many Germans felt the effects of this fire. For the first time in France a ground OP was established and the C.O. using this OP fired on enemy Inf. On several occasions Lt Pfahler had one target consisting of two A.T. Guns. He directed artillery fire upon the guns and destroyed them; he then "walked" artillery fire through the area, setting one ammunition vehicle on fire and routing the remaining Germans. Lt Mitchell fired missions on Inf and his own 50 Cal MG could be heard when he transmitted. His accurate use of time fire accounted for some of the German dead. The Executive of Btry "A", Lt Ricklin, made the remark that he had so many fire missions at one time that the observers were forced to queue up and await their turn. Later on the Bn was registered and prepared to fire "On Call" missions throughout the night.

h. On the 23 August 1944 there was very little activity. Maintenance of vehicles and cleaning of clothing and equipment was performed.

i. On the 24th of August 1944 there was no activity, but plans for the 25th of August 1944 have been drawn up. The 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn will be in Task Force Odin with Btry "C" in the forward position. Lt Hampton is to be the observer with Co. "C" of the 10th Inf Bn. The men of the Bn have indicated a very high state of morale and are anxious to keep moving.

j. On the 25th of August 1944 the 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn moved out at 0750 and occupied position at 1230 at 14.8--26.2. The Task Force Odin column, which was to by pass Troyes, France on the north found all bridges blown up. The Bn supported crossing which required 4 Engineer bridges. Artillery fire was not needed at this point. The Bn moved across bridges at 2130 and went into bivouac at 2230. The night was very black and dust added to the difficulty of blackout driving.

After action report for period covered 15 August 1944 31 August 1944

k. On the 26th of August 1944 the Bn moved out of position at 0740 and occupied position at 35030--71052. Approximately 400 rounds were fired on the Germans leaving Troves, France. The best target of the day was a 20 mm AA Unit found on the road by air observer Lt Maher. His excellent firing drove the enemy into a woods and Btry "B" fired 70 rounds into the woods. The trees gave the desired air burst and later examination credited us with destroying 20 vehicles and many German killed. Observers brought fire on Inf on several occasions and reported effect as "Dead Laying All Over". The enthusiasm of the men increases when there is firing to be done. They have never become tired of pulling the lanyard and welcome the reports of the effect of their fire. Our observers either have no targets or they have so many that there is no time for an accurate description of the effect. There has been little opportunity to bring the fire of all three Btrys on one target because of the numerous requests for fire received at one time. Btry "C" of the 191st FA Bn, which had been attached to this Bn for the march was released to its Bn.

l. On the 27th of August 1944 there was no activity. Bn performed maintenance and cleaned equipment.

m. On the 28th of August 1944 the 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn moved at 0705 and was at the Marne River at 1230 (Vicinity of Mairigny-sur-Marne). Position area was 5591--3635. Lts Hampton and Pfahler established OP's. On the march we were in Task Force Abe with Btry "B" as forward Btry. Observers were with units as follows: Lt Mitchell (Co "A" of the 37th TK Bn), Lt Pfahler (Co "D" of the 37th TK Bn), Lt Hampton (Co "C" of the 10th Inf Bn), Sgt Rejrat (Co "C" of the 37th TK Bn), Lt Moorby (Co "C" of the 53rd Inf Bn). Missions were fired using ground as well as air observation on targets definitely destroyed. Fire was adjusted on roads and enemy was allowed to drive into it. The bridge-head secured, the Bn Moved to 6012--4156 at 1640. This position was SE of Chalons-Sur-Marne. Btrys "B" and "C" fired immediately upon occupying position. Btry "C" was registered. Btry "A" was displaced, but received indirect artillery fire upon entering new position, so they returned to the original position. There were no casualties. 300 rounds interdiction fire was fired during the night. Btry "C" of the 191st FA Bn, which was attached to us, fired 120 rounds interdiction fire.

n. On the morning of 29 August 1944 the Free French reported that there were no Germans in town, but the French don't like our Arty fire. Bn fired a 4 minute preparation at 1130 under Div Arty control. GC "A" entered town after preparation, meeting no resistance. The Free French were right.

o. On the 30 August 1944 the Bn moved at 0900 and was in position at 1300 at 98625--12208, west of St Dizier, France near St Eulien, France. We were supposed to regroup in this area but orders are to go on to Commercy tomorrow. Bn was registered, but did no other firing.

p. On the 31 August 1944 the Bn moved at 0730 in Task Force Abe with observers as follows: Lt Pfahler (Co "D" of the 37th TK Bn), Lt Mitchell (Co "A" of the 37th TK Bn), Lt Hampton (Co "C" of the 10th Inf Bn), Sgt Rejrat (Co "C" of the 37th TK Bn). Btry "A" was the forward Btry. The Bn occupied position at 42100--18000 just west of Commercy, France at 1245, but no firing was done. Bn occupied position at 43912--21566 just south-east of Vignot at 1445. It rained until objective was taken.

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HEADQUARTERS  
56TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #254, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: After action report for period covered 1 September to 30 September 1944.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington D. C.

1. In compliance with AR 3-5-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. SUMMARY:

Twelve enemy FW 100's strafing and shooting rockets at our position greeted us the first day of September. The attack began at 1330, while we were in position E. of Vignot and lasted about ten minutes. Apparently the targets were our CP tents where practically all our casualties resulted. During the attack the men of Headquarters Battery conducted themselves admirably by firing more effectively. PFC John C. King continued to man his machine gun although wounded. The Battalion Medical Detachment, led by Capt. Sidney Grace, treated the casualties while under 'fire'. In all, the courage, coolness and soldierly conduct of the men of Headquarters Battery while being bombed and strafed was superb.

Approximately three hours later our "C" Battery received counter-battery artillery fire. Five men of that Battery were wounded.

Major A.D. Pickard replaced Lt. Colonel Neil M. Wallace as Battalion Commander. Lt. Colonel Wallace was wounded and evacuated during the strafing. Capt. R.E. Kulp was made Battalion Executive and Lt. Atkinson was appointed Ass't S - 3. These changes lasted only five days when Lt. Colonel Wallace returned to duty and resumed command once again.

On September 13th we crossed the Moselle River at Dieulouard. On reaching the east bank of the River enemy artillery shelled us heavily. Our "B" & "C" Batteries sustained minor casualties. Nevertheless we drove on and fought our way ahead before we went into position approximately 1000 yards east of Fresnes-en-Saulnois which was about 4000 yards NW of Chateau-Salins. We remained there over night and pushed on the next afternoon and went into position in the vicinity of Arracourt (South of Chateau-Salins). We occupied this area for twelve days when we moved to an alternate position on order of our Division Commander. Our assignment being, "to man a more active defense". During our twelve day stay there, our tanks inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, his tanks and vehicles. Newspapers and radio commentators referred to this as the "greatest tank battle since D - Day".

The remainder of the month finds us further continuing to eliminate the enemy, his tanks, vehicles and artillery. Our losses being almost negligible. The following summary covers enemy losses reported from 12 to 29 September inclusive:

Prisoners Captured.....	3000
Enemy Killed.....	3040
Enemy Wounded.....	1136
Tanks Destroyed.....	more than 100

For period covered 1 Sept to 30 Sept 1944

Anti-tank and artillery destroyed.....67  
 Half tracks, armored Cars,  
 Armored vehicles destroyed.....59  
 Other vehicles destroyed.....514

b. BATTLE CASUALTIES:

Enemy strafing and bombing on Sept 1, 1944.

1st Lt Donald E. Hume	(Killed)	(Bn Hq)
T/Sgt Charles D. Heckel	(Killed)	(Hq Btry)
Tec 4 Frank J. Busheme	(Killed)	(Sv Btry)
Cpl Earl J. Nys	(Killed)	(Hq Btry)
Cpl Thomas J. Dwyer	(Killed)	(Hq Btry)
Cpl Raymond A. Saquet	(Killed)	(Hq Btry)
Lt Col Neil M. Wallace	(Wounded-evacuated)	(Bn Hq)
Capt Bernard J. Funcheon	"	(Hq Btry)
1st Lt Grant H. Mollett	"	(Hq Btry)
Sgt Jule J. Weiss	"	(Hq Btry)
Tec 4 Charles P. Graham	"	(Bn Hq)
Cpl Norman M. Thomas	"	(Hq Btry)
Tec 5 Glenn T. Glass	"	(Hq Btry)
Tec 5 Theodore H. Huber	"	(Sv Btry)
Tec 5 Irving Fischler	"	(Hq Btry)
PFC Clarence Royalty	"	(Hq Btry)
PFC Alfred H. Weissman	"	(Hq Btry)
PFC John C. King	"	(Hq Btry)
PFC Devona A. Vandevere	"	(Hq Btry)
Pvt Joseph C. Carter	"	(Hq Btry)
Pvt Jack Emerson	"	(Bn Hq)

Enemy artillery on September 1st:

Pvt Robert Davidson	(Killed)	("C" Btry)
Pvt Bernard Lipky	(Wounded-Evacuated)	("C" Btry)
Pvt Leroy W. Hansen	"	("C" Btry)

Enemy artillery on September 14th:

Cpl John Hartman	(Wounded-Evacuated)	("C" Btry)
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Enemy artillery on September 29th:

PFC Willie H. Carver	(Wounded-Evacuated)	("A" Btry)
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c. PURPLE HEART AWARDS

Lt Col Neil M. Wallace	(cluster)
Maj Andrew D. Pickard	
Capt John F. Vogel	
1st Sgt Alfred D. Glenn	(cluster)
1st Sgt William P. Zelin	
T/Sgt Reginald K. Broome	
T/Sgt George H. Johnson	
Maj Earl E. Smith	
Tec 4 Flavil H. Logan	
Tec 5 Charles H. Grant	

Report for period covered 1 Sept, 30 Sept 1944

AWARDS:

Cpl Albert Gajdos  
Cpl Raymond A. Pitzon  
Tec 5 Hubert Davis  
PFC Stanley Dombrowski  
PFC Salvatore C. Conti  
Cpl Cecil Robason  
Pvt Francis M. Russo  
Sgt Constantino Smith  
S/Sgt George E. Maynard  
Sgt Harry P. Flanagan  
Pvt Franklin C. Durgin  
Cpl Henry A. Haug  
Sgt Joseph A. Fovick  
Cpl William R. Mulgrew  
Sgt John J. Golden  
Pvt Earl T. Eklund  
Cpl Daniel J. Deacon  
PFC Martin G. Baird  
Tec 5 Julius J. Wise  
Pvt Alfred J. Hendricks  
Sgt Alex S. Nuszar  
Pvt John E. Greer  
Pvt Marcille J. Mayo  
PFC George W. Cannon  
Tec 5 Glenn T. Glass

Pvt George G. Karaffa  
Cpl Earl T. Bell  
Pvt Ivan C. Hatcher  
Pvt John Fennick  
Sgt Peter Yacek  
Tec 4 Charles C. Chyness  
Tec 5 Laurence A. Cotanch  
PFC Henry A. Dumais  
Tec 4 Walter J. Zureck  
Sgt Herman J. Scheetz  
Pvt Elbert C. Andrews  
Tec 4 Rene C. Meirsonne  
Cpl Roy I. Crockett  
Pvt Charles H. White  
Pvt Raymond L. Jones  
Tec 3 Benjamin L. Stahl  
Tec 4 Charles P. Graham  
Pvt Jack Emerson  
PFC James H. Shanks  
1st Lt Fred S. Pfahler  
Sgt Arthur W. Hirschmiller  
Pvt Frederick W. Schwaderer  
Tec 5 Randolph J. Nalley  
~~Tec-5-Randolph-J.-Nalley-~~  
Pvt Michael J. Christofano

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Reggio*

PETER REGGIO

1st Lt., 66th Armd FA Bn

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1 Incl - Overlays  
(7 sheets)

After action report for period covered 15 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

but cleared so that observers on high ground east of Vignot could select many targets. All of our Btrys as well as the attached 155 How Btry fired many times. 400 rounds were fired destroying one locomotive, several vehicles and killing many Germans. Observation was from approximately 5000 yards, which made it difficult. Firing was done at maximum ranges. Firing ceased at dark.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Regilio*

PETER REGILIO

1st Lt., 66th Armd F.A. Bn.,

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HEADQUARTERS  
90th ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: After action report for period covered 11 July to 18 August 1944.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. The 66th Armd FA left the Marshalling area near Southampton at 2100 11 July 1944. Bn was divided enroute. Some units of Bn traveling on Liberty Ship "Joseph Story" others left on Liberty Ships "John L. Elliott" and "Amos J. Throop". First unit to land in France was Battery "B", 66th Armd FA Bn on 14 July 1944, first vehicle on land was an ammunition H/T consisting of Lt Atkinson, Sgt Flanagan, Tec 5 Davis, and Pvts Snyder, Bridges, McLaughlin, Ramieri and Payne. Bn Passes through Utah Beachhead and then thru transit area B 21. Proceeded to bivouac area at coordinates 08.3-91.3, 1/100,000, vicinity of La Grange de Dime. On July 17 1944 Div was ordered to relieve the 4th Inf Div North of Raids, France. Bn went into position at 2130 on the 17th July 1944. No ground observation, so Bn was registered from the air by Lt Maher. 1st round fired on French soil was by Btry "B", 66th Armd FA Bn. Col Bixby, Div Arty CO, pulled the lanyard. Gun crew make-up was Sgt E. Pelpulsi, Cpl Kozuch, Tec 4 Edmundson, PFC's Todd, Schott, Leiby, and Robinson. On 18 July 1944, Bn fired harassing fires and 2nd Lt L.W. May was assigned to the 53rd Inf as forward observer and later to the 10th Inf Bn. Lt Reggio was assigned to the 53rd Inf Bn and later to the 10th Inf Bn as forward observer. Due to poor ground observation most of the fire was unobserved. Lt L.W. May was killed in action on the 19th of July 1944 while serving with the 10th Inf Bn. Sgt Nicholson, his reconnaissance Sgt continued firing after Lt May was hit, and completed the mission. Mortar fire was very heavy in the front line. Sgt Nicholson and Pvt Shanks carried Lt May back from the front line but had to leave him due to enemy shelling. Lt Reggio of Btry "C" was with the 10th Inf Bn and in a reconnaissance in force near St German Sur Seve was forced to withdraw. Arty fire laid down by Lt Reggio greatly assisted Co "C" of the 10th Inf Bn to withdraw without a large number of casualties. Patrols were flown from 0600 each morning until 2230 in the evening by Lts Maher and Waters, Munna and Passer, spotting enemy positions was accomplished and as the planes were in the air the firing on front line troops by the enemy was lessened. Other observers assigned to units in front lines were Lts Pfahler, Hampton, Rutherford, Willis, and Mallett. Capt Henderson and Capt Vogel were assigned to the C.P. of the Inf Bns engaged to act as coordinators of observers. On 22 July 1944, the Bn was prepared to support an attack by the 90th Inf Div on line with out front. At present the Division still holds the salient toward Raids. From the period 23 July 1944 until 28 July 1944 there was no change in our position. Bn fired harassing and on call missions for flank div. 33rd Inf Div was on left flank moving forward on a line with the 90th Inf Div.

On 28 July 1944 at 2300 unit commanders received information that we were to move South to vicinity of La Jourdanriere, to hold road nets in the vicinity. Unit moved our meeting sporadic resistance to positions about 2 miles north of Coutances. Small arms fire was rather heavy while Bn moved into position. Some casualties were suffered. Bn in this move took well over 200 prisoners. 1/4-Ton C & R truck was destroyed in Coutances by mine. Two men of Btry "C" were seriously wounded. On 29 July 1944 Bn moved from North of Coutances to area North of La Jourdanriere (Gerences. While in position North of Avranches, France fire was delivered on enemy vehicles retreating South on road. During the night of 30 July 1944 one M-7 of the

After action report for period covered 11 July 1944 to 13 August 1944

Bn was destroyed due to enemy Bazooka fire. It moved through Avranches and took up position about 3 miles South. Our Combat Command was to hold Avranches South of Avranches. Btrys had some sniper fire and prisoners were taken. Sgt Kolbfleisch, the Bn S-2 was killed in an attempt to persuade a group of the enemy to surrender. Lt Peter Reggio of Btry "C", who was acting as a forward observer in a tank was wounded by enemy bazookas and evacuated to the rear. Sgt Rejrat of Lt Reggio's crew was returning from the city of Avranches and encountered a Mark VI German tank. Sgt Rejrat ordered his driver to ram the tank. By so doing, the enemy tank could not fire on him due to the length of tube on the 88mm gun. Sgt Rejrat then fired one round of HE and several rounds of Heat through the tank at point blank range. His own tank turned over into a ditch and started to burn. Sgt Rejrat and his crew abandoned the tank and returned to the Bn position. On 1 August 1944 the Bn moved out at 1100 displacing by batteries. It soon became a run toward the South and a position was taken up near Patton, France outside the city of Rennes. While the Bn was moving into position we were subjected to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Casualties suffered by this Bn were 54. Capt R.S. Watson, Btry "C" Commander was killed and Lt F. J. Gavarinski was wounded. Sgt Vanderpool, 1st Sgt of Btry "C" took over the Btry and did a fine job until relieved by an officer of the Div Arty. Lt E.V. Williams, Surrey Officer was killed by sniper fire. In attempting to go back and remove Lt Williams body S/Sgt Templeton was wounded seriously. 1st Sgt Zelin of Btry "B", who accompanied Sgt Templeton did not return. He has been officially carried as missing in action. Mention might be made here that the 66th Armd FA Bn were directly behind the leading elements and in some cases in front of the Inf. A reluctance was noted on the part of Infantrymen to get out of their half-tracks when subjected to small arms and mortar fire. In many cases they dug in and did not attempt to send out patrols. The situation on 2 August 1944 was relatively quiet after moving back from the position occupied the day before. Maintenance of a much needed nature was performed in preparation for the move to Josselin. Plans were changed as of the 3 August 1944 and CC "A" made a 50 mile march around the North side of Rennes, South to Messac, East to Paim de Bretagne and then North to Mardons. It was made with very little opposition and completed in 6 hours. Bn remained in this position and fired on columns retreating southward from Rennes. August 1944 a task force of which we were apart moved North towards France. Occasional resistance was encountered and the Bn once again took quite a number of prisoners. Arrived in bivouac at 2300 at a point just outside of Vannes, France. Col E.A. Bixby, Div Arty Commander presented the following awards to officers and enlisted men of this Battalion. 1st Lt Donald E. Hurma, 2nd Lt John M. Maher, and 2nd Lt Jerome R. Waters received the Air Medals and S/Sgt C. Nicholson of Btry "B" received the Silver Star for gallantry in action. Observers were sent out to outposts on main roads out of Vannes to the west, north and east. No firing was done. On the 8 August 1944 the Bn received 54 enlisted men replacements and 2 officers, 2nd Lt Martin and 2nd Lt Morby were assigned to Hq Btry and Btry "C" respectively. Some vehicles were received; 6 1/2 ton C&R trucks and 2 half-tracks. Observers with outposts were as follows--Lts Hampton, Pfahler, Atkinson, and Sgt R. Dinton. At 0615 on the morning of the 10 August 1944 Bn pulled out and after a 21 mile march arrived North of Nantes, France. No contact with the enemy. Lt Col Neil M. Clarke was presented with the Silver Star for gallantry in action, and outstanding performance at Rennes, Col Clarke made the presentation on behalf of the Division Command. During the period 11 August 1944 to 13 August 1944 there was no change in the situation. On 14 August 1944 Bn moved out at 0330 and was still on the road at 2350. No contact with enemy. Arrived in area South of St. Brieuc at 0815 on the 15th of August 1944. On the road 21 hours and 45 minutes--covered 152 miles. Still on contact with the enemy. Morale of the troops has been normal. General

**HEADQUARTERS**  
**66th ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**  
**APO 254, U. S. Army**

**SUBJECT:** After action report for period covered 1 October to 31 October 1944

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

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

**a. SUMMARY:**

This period was the most unexciting and uneventful one since our arrival in France. Our firing consisted mainly of registering and harassing fires from 1 October to 22 October 1944. On October 14th, a Battery of the 390th AAA was attached to this Bn. On October 23rd we displaced SE of Athienville after being replaced by the 263rd FA Bn (26th Div), our mission then being general support. Although our Battalion was still within range the schedule consisted of maintenance and rest (movies, showers, and passes to Nancy and Paris) after 107 consecutive days of battling enemy.

On October 30th we displaced to the 35th Division sector, 1,000 yards NW of Armaucourt.

Attached are True Copies of an inspecting officers report from the XII Corp who recently inspected our Battalion and a 1st Indorsement from our Battalion Commander who complimented us further. Also attached is a True Copy of a letter from Major General Eddy.

b. The following list, by Btrys, is a complete recapulation of AWARDS (Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal and Purple Hearts), PROMOTIONS, REPLACEMENTS, KILLED IN ACTION. This covers the period 17 July to 31 October 1944, and includes both officers and enlisted men:

**BATTALION HEADQUARTERS**

**KILLED IN ACTION**

Capt J. G. Kalbfleisch  
1st Lt D. E. Mumma  
1st Lt E.V. Williams

**PURPLE HEARTS**

Lt Col N.M. Wallace  
Major A.D. Pickard  
Capt J.G. Kalbfleisch  
1st Lt D.E. Mumma  
1st Lt E.V. Williams  
Major E.E. Smith  
Sgt P. Yack  
Cpl H. R. Mele  
Cpl E.C. Andrews  
Tec 4 G.J. Graham  
Tec 5 C.H. Grant  
PFC A.M. Weissman  
PFC J. Emerson

**PROMOTIONS**

Capt E.E. Smith to Major  
1st Lt J.G. Kalbfleisch to Capt  
Pvt E.C. Andrews to Cpl  
Pvt C.H. Grant to Tec 5

**SILVER STAR**

Lt Col N.M. Wallace

**BRONZE STARS**

Major A.D. Pickard

**AIR MEDAL**

1st Lt D. E. Mumma

**REPLACEMENTS**

Tec 5 S.B. Garcia  
PFC C.W. Cable  
PFC G. H. Free

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

**KILLED IN ACTION**

T/Sgt C.D. Heckel  
Cpl T. J. Dwyer  
Cpl E.J. Eys  
Cpl R. L. Saquet

**PROMOTIONS**

1st Lt D.A. Levitt to Capt  
2nd Lt G.H. Molett to 1st Lt  
2nd Lt S.E. Willis to 1st Lt  
2nd Lt J.R. Waters to 1st Lt  
S/Sgt E.A. Rejrat to 2nd Lt

b. AWARDS, ETC (CONT'D)

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

PURPLE HEARTS

Capt B.J. Funcheon  
1st Lt G.H. Molett  
1st Sgt A.B. Glenn (Cluster)  
T/Sgt C.D. Heckel  
T/Sgt R.K. Broome  
T/Sgt G.N. Johnson  
S/Sgt H. J. Scheetz  
S/Sgt J.R. Templeton  
Sgt F.A. Walsh  
Sgt J.J. Weiss  
Sgt A. Gajdos  
Tec 4 F.H. Logan  
Tec 4 R. C. Meirresonne  
Tec 4 W.J. Zurek  
Cpl T.J. Dwyer  
Cpl E.J. Mys  
Cpl R.L. Saquet  
Cpl H.M. Thomas  
Cpl H.W. Vaughn  
Tec 5 E. R. Stutzman  
Tec 5 I. Fischler  
Tec 5 D.A. Vandevere  
Tec 5 G.T. Glass  
Tec 4 C.C. Chamness  
Tec 5 J.W. Wise  
PFC J.C. King  
PFC C.L. Royalty  
Pvt E.R. Bennett  
Pvt J.G. Carver  
Tec 5 L.H. Cotanch  
PFC H. A. Dumais

REPLACEMENTS

2nd Lt K.L. Wilson  
2nd Lt B. C. Wulf  
S/Sgt T.L. Roos  
PFC P. Mendoza  
PFC L.N. Hart  
PFC J. W. Hyssong Jr  
Pvt P. C. Spaulding  
Pvt H. Lewis  
Pvt L. R. Brown  
Pvt T. M. Hudgins

KILLED IN ACTION

Sgt S.J. Sacchine  
PFC A. J. Mrozek

PURPLE HEARTS

Capt J.F. Vogel

PROMOTIONS

S/Sgt J. Waldspurger to T/Sgt  
Sgt H.J. Scheetz to S/Sgt  
Tec 4 T.L. Roos to S/Sgt  
Cpl J.J. Weiss to Sgt  
Cpl A. Gajdos to Sgt  
Cpl S.G. Myers to Sgt  
PFC R.L. Nemanich to Cpl  
PFC R.L. Saquet to Cpl  
Tec 5 A. Arike to Cpl  
Pvt H.W. Vaughn to Cpl  
Pvt R. K. Gordon to Cpl  
PFC J. C. Still to Tec 5  
PFC H.M. Stamp to Tec 5  
PFC D. A. Vandevere to Tec 5  
Pvt K.W. Mernin to Tec 5

SILVER STARS

2nd Lt E.A. Rejrat  
PFC J.C. King

AIR MEDAL

1st Lt J.R. Waters (2 clusters)  
2nd Lt J.M. Maher (1 cluster)  
2nd Lt B.C. Wulf (1 Cluster)

BRONZE STARS

T/Sgt G.N. Johnson  
Tec 3 C.E. McCalip  
Sgt A. Gajdos  
Tec 4 H. L. Williams  
Tec 5 H.M. Stamp  
PFC A. Christ  
PFC L. J. Costello  
Pvt J. Gwiler

BATTERY "A"

PROMOTIONS

2nd Lt F.P. Hampton to 1st Lt  
2nd Lt G.P. Morrison to 1st Lt  
Sgt E. T. Page to 1st Sgt  
Tec 4 G.D. Rhoads to S/Sgt

BATTERY "A"

PURPLE HEARTS

S/Sgt S.S. Mate  
S/Sgt G.B. Maynard  
Sgt J. C. Noel  
Sgt S. J. Sacchini  
Sgt A. S. Nuzzer  
Tec 4 P. Petkovich  
Tec 4 H. Davis  
Sgt C. Smith  
Tec 4 J. Drabik  
Cpl R. Hendricks  
Cpl R. I. Crockett  
Tec 5 C.P. Murphy  
Tec 5 C. Robson  
Tec 5 S. C. Conti  
PFC A. J. Mrozek  
Pvt F. P. Taylor  
Pvt W. Joubert  
PFC S. Dombroski  
PFC J. I. Burgess  
Pvt W. H. Carver  
Pvt C.L. Jolley  
Pvt R.R. Pitzon  
Pvt F.M. Russo  
Pvt M.A. Pristash  
Pvt M. T. Puscar  
Pvt J. F. Marshall  
Pvt A. J. Hendrison  
Pvt J. E. Greer

REPLACEMENTS

PFC A. H. Shenton  
PFC W. Henson  
Pvt W. J. Fanning  
Pvt E. L. Holt  
Pvt F.F. Matrob  
Pvt P. J. Reynolds  
Pvt J. Serra  
Pvt J. C. P. Cheatwood

KILLED IN ACTION

Tec 5 V. L. Yecker  
Pvt J.P. Leiby  
1st Lt L.H. May

PURPLE HEARTS

1st Lt L. H. May  
1st Lt F.S. Pfahler  
Sgt H.P. Flanagan  
Sgt J. A. Povlick  
Col J. A. Haug  
PFC J. W. Cannon  
PFC J. H. Shanks  
PFC F. C. Durgin  
Pvt C. H. White

PROMOTIONS

Tec 5 S.B. Zazenski to tec 4  
Tec 5 G. A. Dotter to Tec 4  
Tec 5 H. Davis to Tec 4  
Tec 5 C. H. Olson to Tec 4  
PFC W. A. Perock to Cpl  
PFC R.I. Crockett to Cpl  
PFC C.H. Hyatt to Tec 5  
PFC D. Wilson to Tec 5  
PFC J. Sebulsky to Tec 5  
PFC S.S. Conti to Tec 5  
Cpl A. S. Nuzzer to Sgt  
Tec 5 F. E. Hosmer to Cpl  
Pvt M. G. Koen to Cpl  
PFC W. E. Kluk to Tec 5  
PFC A. O. Drury to Cpl  
PFC J. H. Brett to Cpl

SILVER STAR

1st Lt F. B. Hampton

BRONZE STAR

1st Lt F.B. Hampton  
S/Sgt H. Yellin  
Cpl F. E. Hosmer  
Cpl E.J. Mezel  
Cpl A. J. Weber  
PFC W. R. Huey

BATTERY "B"

REPLACEMENTS

Pvt C. H. White  
Pvt O.L. Williamson  
Pvt K. Woodrum  
Pvt P. C. Spaulding  
Pvt M. L. Berstein  
Pvt A.S. Beyer

SILVER STAR

S/Sgt G. W. Nicholson  
Cpl L. H. Fox  
Cpl J.P. Grizdolski  
Pvt 1st Lt H.J. Rhodes

PROMOTIONS

2nd Lt F.S. Pfahler to 1st Lt  
S/Sgt A.E. Sweeney to 1st Sgt  
Tec 4 H. Leslie to S/Sgt  
Tec 5 J.A. Fox to S/Sgt  
Tec 5 A.S. Taddie to Tec 4  
PFC K.H. Kohler to Tec 4  
PFC A. R. Cirillo to Tec 5  
Pvt F.P. Calland to Tec 5

b. AWARDS, ETC, CONT'D

PURPLE HEARTS

Pvt D.P. Martin  
Pvt R. C. Hardin  
Tec 5 W.L. Yecker  
Pvt C. F. Marsh  
Pvt H.L. Walton  
Pvt R. C. McLaughlin

BATTERY "B"

PROMOTIONS

Pvt G. H. Peek to Tec 5

KILLED IN ACTION

Capt R.S. Watson  
PFC J. A. Dross  
Pvt R.S. Carty  
Pvt H.L. Brown Jr  
Pvt J. Lee  
Pvt E. Cross  
Pvt C.W. Ainsworth  
Pvt R.M. Davidson

BATTERY "C"

SILVER STAR

Capt F. M. Edwards  
1st Lt P. Reggio  
2nd Lt J. G. Vanderpool

BRONZE STAR

Cpl E.E. Dell  
Tec 5 D. E. Lautiero

PURPLE HEARTS

Capt R.S. Watson  
1st Lt P. Reggio  
1st Lt P. J. Gaveinski  
Sgt A.W. Hirschmiller  
Sgt J.J. Golden  
Sgt I.C. Hatcher  
Sgt G. W. Brittingham  
Cpl J. Hartman  
Cpl R.L. Jones  
Cpl E.E. Dell  
Cpl D. J. Deacon  
Cpl W. R. Mulgrew  
Cpl J. R. Obrosky  
PFC J. W. Sanders  
PFC J. A. Dross  
PFC H. L. Schelhorn  
PFC A. A. Genazzio  
PFC M. G. Baird  
Pvt R.S. Carty  
Tec 5 L.D. Goddard  
Tec 5 D.E. Lautiero  
Tec 5 J. Lombardo  
Tec J. Fenick  
Pvt H. L. Brown  
Pvt P. T. Michonski  
Pvt J. D. Greenwell  
Pvt C. T. Eklund  
Pvt H.J. Karaffa  
Pvt C.W. Ainsworth  
Pvt B. F. Lipke  
Pvt R. W. Davison  
Pvt F. W. Schwadere  
Pvt M. J. Mayo  
Pvt T. H. Hansen  
Pvt J. Lee  
Pvt E. Cross  
Pvt E. J. Mitchell

PROMOTIONS

1st Lt F. M. Edwards to Capt  
1st Sgt J. G. Vanderpool to 2nd Lt  
Cpl J. H. Knor  
Cpl B. E. Ramsey to Sgt  
PFC R.W. Clarke to Cpl  
PFC J. F. Sciarra to Cpl  
PFC E. Byrd to Tec 5  
Pvt J. Neil to Tec 5

REPLACEMENTS

1st Lt F. M. Edwards  
2nd Lt R. W. Livingston  
2nd Lt F. H. Moorby  
PFC F. K. Wright  
PFC C. P. Stacks  
PFC D. F. Howard  
PFC R. Dodson  
PFC D. P. Marie  
Pvt H. Marzolf  
Pvt J. A. Kennedy  
Pvt F. Lohr  
Pvt M.W. Mayo  
Pvt E. L. McCarthy  
Pvt E. R. Morrison  
Pvt W.O. Topp  
Pvt R.J. Davidson  
Pvt D. E. Davis  
Pvt C. J. Hess  
Pvt H.H. Lewis  
Pvt B. F. Lipke  
Pvt F. H. Lockwood  
Pvt H. R. Joas

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b. AWARDS, ETC, CONT'D

SERVICE BATTERY

KILLED IN ACTION

Tec 4 F. G. Buschert

PURPLE HEART

Tec 5 R. J. Walley

Tec 3 P. H. Huber

REPLACEMENTS

2nd Lt R. S. Lees

1st Lt B. J. Hilburn

PFC P. J. Batson

Pvt J. G. Wagner

PROMOTIONS

Tec 5 W. Sharnhol to Tec 4

Tec 5 W. G. Mitchell to Tec 4

PFC N. Gordon to Tec 5

PFC T. Speck to Tec 5

Pvt W. S. Avant to Tec 5

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

KILLED IN ACTION

Tec 5 P. J. Andrejarski

PURPLE HEART

Tec 3 B. L. Stahl

Tec 5 P. J. Andrejarski

SILVER STAR

Capt S. Grace

S/Sgt J. O. West

Tec 5 L. Tetenbaum

Tec 5 E. Caruso

PROMOTIONS

PFC L. Tetenbaum to Tec 5

REPLACEMENTS

Cpl W.L. Shaw

PFC T.W. Washburn

Pvt N. Glover

Pvt G.J. Santora

Pvt R.W. Nieman

BATTERY "A"

REPLACEMENTS

PFC C. H. Compton

PFC T. D. Mastropietro

Pvt W. J. Goodwin

Pvt G. E. Hancock

Pvt J. D. Dunn

Pvt C. E. Hiley

REPLACEMENTS

PFC J. T. Dunn

Pvt A. Gwin

Pvt J. W. Hamlin

Pvt H. W. Hendrickson

Pvt B. L. Landfield

Pvt R. D. Race

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Reggio*

PETER REGGIO

1st Lt., 66th Armd F.A. Bn

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1 Incl:

Incl # 1 - Overlays (9 sheets)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS  
26TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #254, U.S. Army

SUBJECT: After action report for period covered 1 November to 8 December 1944

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. In compliance with AM 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. SUMMARY:

The period 1 - 7 November 1944 consisted of rest and phases to Nancy. The following day we went into Corps General support and fired preparation fires supporting the attack of the 35th Infantry Division. On November 10, 1944 we joined CC "A" and left our position at Arnacourt (1000 yds NE) and moved to the SE of Morville - sur Seille encountering enemy artillery fire there. The next day artillery and small arms fire increased in intensity as we displaced to Harpont, Obrecht and then going into a defensive position for the night NE of Cortail. Infantry elements of the 26th Division whose mission it was to take the town of Chateau Veau but could not due to fierce enemy resistance. They requested artillery fire on the town from "A" Battery who was enroute in column, going into position off the road, "A" Battery laid direct fire on the town. Thus enabling the infantry of the 26th Division to achieve their mission.

We encountered our roughest day of the campaign on 12 November 1944, when the enemy unleashed approximately 300 rounds of various caliber of artillery in our area. Enemy Infantry, supported by tank and artillery fire, attacked our position from the left flank. Our artillery fired at the advancing enemy at a range of 750 yards and caused the enemy to disperse and move back. Although some enemy infantry approached our position at ranges of less than 750 yards, we could not put artillery fire on them due to the density of the woods in front of our guns. However, our tank and infantry elements forced the enemy to withdraw.

The 26th Infantry Division was forced to withdraw from Rodalbe after encountering stiff enemy resistance. Our Battalion Commander, Lt Col Neil M. Wallace went forward to survey the situation but unfortunately the Colonel and the tank crew had to abandon their tank after it was hit by enemy tank fire. Badly burnt about the face, the Colonel and the tank crew safely returned under enemy small arms and machine gun fire. Under cover of darkness we displaced to an alternate position to the high ground E of Cortail. During our stay there from 13-19 November, we fired preparation fires or localized advances, harassing fires and missions called for by our observers. We moved forward on November 20, to Rodalbe and met exceptionally light enemy resistance there we remained until 23 November.

We celebrated our Thanksgiving Day by moving to the vicinity of Vergaville and during our military art by preparing our turkey's and other delicacies. Our holiday lasted one day, then we moved to 1 mi W of Hittersheim from there we registered and fired 200's on enemy positions.

We moved 26th Corps area betw en Loehr and Ottwiller after moving through Hellingen, Ranswiller and Metting. The duration of our stay there lasted 3 days but target opportunities were plentiful. To quote the 44th Infantry Division to whom we gave artillery support - "Good Shooting."

Moving to Ottwiller on November 24th and occupying the same position until Dec 4th. Our firing consisted of 200's on numerous enemy targets. Preparation fires for the 26th Infantry Division attack on Carreghen on Dec 4th.

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On December 5 we moved forward to 2½ km south of Dillingendorf where we went into position over night, moving forward December 6th to a position approximately 2½ km south west of Dehlingen, where we fired preparation fires, and on enemy artillery anti-tank-guns, vehicles and personnel until December 8th when we were relieved by the 12th Armored Division for a well earned and much needed rest. The one being relieved Lt Mitchell and his FO #1 crew fired the first round over an oil. They fired a round of HE at maximum range from his forward position which gives FO #1 crew the honor of firing the first round into Germany for the 66th. The tank was Jackson II, crew members were 1st Lt John E. Mitchell, Sgt Paul Gaydos, Cpl William Hyde, Tec 5 John King and PFC James Campbell.

**b. MISC.**

During this period the enemy engaged in our sector consisted of elements from the following Divisions: 11th Panzer Division, 130th Panzer Lehr Division 25th Panzer Grenadier Division and the 559th Grenadier Division.

Enemy vehicular losses during this period: 6 tanks, 1 - 6 Barreled (Nebelwerfer) Rocket projector.

Our losses: 2 tanks and 1 trailer.

Ammunition (105MM) expended for the "Battle of France" (July 17th to November 4th, 1944) - 17,804 rounds.

Ammunition (105MM) expended for the "Battle of Germany" (Nov 5th to Dec 8th, 1944) were 19,180.


On November 18th we fired a Battalion record for ammunition expenditure of 2,184 rounds in a 24 hour period.

**c. CASUALTIES:**

2nd Lt Edward A. Rejrat, Staff Sgt George P. Randell, Cpl Michael Pasca, Cpl Francis P. Nolan and PFC Wilbert D. Scanlon, killed.

43 members of the Battalion received wounds of various types during this period.

For the Commanding Officer:

  
PETER FEGHIO  
1st Lt., 66th Armored F.A. Bn.,  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ETO  
1

HEADQUARTERS  
66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #254, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: After action reports for period covered 1 December to 31st December 1944

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. The 66th Armd FA Bn., Lt Col Neil M. Wallace, Commanding a part of Combat Command "A", 4th Armd Division under the command of Brig Gen Ernest, was in position, vicinity, Gungwiller, Alsace, France, 1st December. Combat Command "A" fighting in two columns under Lt Colonel's Oden and West, 35th Tank Bn. and 10th Infantry Bn. Commanding Officer's respectively, had up to date penetrated the Majinot line defences.

The mission of the Division was to seize the town of Bining, just short of the German border and the high ground to the east. This area contains many of the most important Majinot line defences and also the gateway into Germany and the Siegfried line.

Fifth of December the Bn. displaced forward to a position  $2\frac{1}{2}$  km of Rimsdorf, remaining overnight, firing missions on enemy targets from our forward observers. Displacing forward on 6th December to a position  $2\frac{1}{2}$  km south west of Dohlingen where we remained until the Division was relieved by the 12th Armd Division on the 8th December 1944. Fire missions, were plentiful during the period and our targets consisted of, enemy infantry, mortars, tanks, artillery and pill box installations. Our Forward Observers did a marvelous job as did our Liaison pilots, who flew daily from sun-up till dark. Effect on all targets was excellent, however, enemy casualties inflicted by our artillery fire could not be estimated.

Eighth of December, 1944, the 66th displaced to the town of Assenoncourt, Alsace, France for rest and maintenance of equipment where it remained until 19th of December, 1944. The German counterattack and breakthrough into Belgium ended our rest period. The Bn. being alerted, moved out 19th December, aiming at our destination Messancy, Belgium about 0130, 20th December, 1944. The motor march being by way of Morhange, Pont-a-Mousson and Longwy.

Twenty-first of December the Bn. moved forward into a position area south of the city of Arlon. Again a part of Combat Command "A" and under the column command of Lt Colonel Oden. The composition of the Oden column consisted of the following units: 35th Tank Bn., 51st Infantry Bn., platoon of "A" Company 24th Armd Engineer Bn., 66th Armd F.A. Bn., and the 247th FA Bn. reinforcing the 66th.

The Division, now a part of the Third Army Corps, Third Army was given the mission to attack to the north, contact and join forces with the 101st Airborne Div holding the encircled city of Bastogne. Combat Command "A" was given a route of advance along the main highway between Arlon and Bastogne. Reserve Command moved to the Division's left flank and was first to accomplish the Division's mission. Lt Col Abrams, column commander made contact with the 101st Airborne Division approximately 1830, 26th December, 1944.

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Combat Command "A" advanced north through Hartlage and made contact with friendly forces at Bastogne, opening the main route of supply to the city from the south. The 31st of December finds our forces outposting the highway to the east which the Germans are desperately trying to cut. Two counterattacks from the east and north east on the 30th and 31st of December were repelled, the enemy suffering heavy casualties it was reported.

The 66th fired on enemy infantry, tanks, mortars, artillery positions and troop concentrations, expending 10,375 rounds of 105mm ammunition from 22nd December to 31st December, 1944. 3046 rounds of which were fired on the 31st of December, a record day for ammunition expenditure over a twenty-four hour period.

25th of December, two P-47's with allied markings, dropped four bombs and strafed the Bn. position without damage or casualty to our troops. On the 26th of December four P-47's again appeared over our Bn position, two of which, strafed and bombed, killing one man and severely wounding two men. Identification panels well displayed and it was reported by the air liaison officer with combat command that these planes were not friendly.

Casualties in the Bn during the period, 1 December to 31 December, 1944 are as follows:

Killed in action -- 1 officer and 2 enlisted men.

Wounded in action -- died of wounds -- 2 enlisted men.

Wounded in action and transferred -- 1 officer and 7 enlisted men.

Wounded in action, duty -- 9 enlisted men.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Regan*

PETER REGAN  
1st Lt., 66th Armored F.A. Bn.,  
S - 2

**66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**  
**AFB 254, U. S. Army**

3 February 1945

**SUBJECT:** After action report for period covered 1 January to 31 January 1945.

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

*Jan Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec 44  
Jan 45*

1. In compliance with AF 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. On 1 January 1945 the Bn was in position, vicinity of Strainchamps Belgium, 52,5-44.5, where it remained until 9 January 1945. Combat Command "A" of which the 66th was still a part continued their mission of keeping the main highway running south from Bastogne to Arlon open. The 51st Inf Bn and 35th Tank Bn were in position east of the main highway contacting elements of the 6th Armd Div on the left flank. Bn observers were as follows: 1st Lt Mitchell with Co "C" 35th Tank Bn, 2nd Lt Osborne with the 35th Tank Bn Co "C", and 2nd Lt Sanders with Co "C" 51st Inf Bn. Firing consisted of harassing and reinforcing fires for the 35th Inf Division. The weather continued cold with snow storms and wind making it impossible for our liaison planes to fly.

On 8 January 1945 the 35th Inf Division moved into Strainchamps, occupying all available buildings. The 66th CP and the fire direction moved approximately 1500 yards west of Strainchamps to the village of Motte, remaining over-night.

On 9 January 1945 the Bn displaced forward to a position in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium, coordinates 56.0-5.70, answering calls for fires from the 101st Airborne Division on enemy guns and troops movements. Weather was clear and observation good.

On 10 January 1945 the 4th Armd Division attacked toward Bouvigny with its Combat Commands abreast. The 66th fired a preparation for CC "A", prior to the attack. As the attack progressed, the 4th Armd Division was relieved by the 6th Armd Division, going into a rest area South of the city of Luxembourg and placed in 3rd Army Reserve.

The 66th assembled in the vicinity of Hinkel, France, approximately 14 km's from Luxembourg. All Division insignias were removed from the individual clothing and identification markings from the vehicles before leaving Bastogne.

On 12 January 1945 the Bn moved to vicinity River and Mosser, Luxembourg the CP and fire direction center located in River. The 94th Armd FA Bn, 4th Armd Division also moved into the general vicinity, and both Bns were now in general support of the 4th Infantry Division. The 66th reinforcing fires of the 29th F.A., 4th Inf Div. Firing consisted of harassing and TOT's on enemy troops in Germany proper.

On 16th of January 1945 the Bn fired a preparation for an attack by the 4th Infantry Division, 5th Infantry Division, and the 10th Infantry Division. Reinforcing fires were continued until 30 January 1945 at which time the Bn was relieved by the 94th Armd FA Bn, which occupied our same battery positions. We moved into a rest area approximately 7 km's South of Luxembourg and were billeted in the villages of Bivange, Roesser, Krauthen, and Luppange. 31 January 1945 the Bn began its rest period for combat and resumed maintenance and care of material and equipment.

AUTHORITY

For the Commanding Officer:

**Incls:**

Incl # 1 - Casualty List

Incl # 2 - Certificate

Incl # 3 - Memorandum & Artillery

1st Lt., 66th Armd F.A. Bn.

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JUN 30 1945

14368

*not rec'd  
in 5 days*

*12*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*P. R. Paggi*

*11*

HEADQUARTERS  
66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

3 February 1945

The following list taken from the Battalion Medical records  
beginning 17 July 1944 through 31 January 1945, includes:

Killed In Action.....	23
Wounded In Action, Transferred.....	81
Wounded In Action, Duty.....	90
Non Battle Wounds, Transferred.....	2
Non Battle Wounds, Duty.....	2
Injured In Action, Transferred.....	23
Injured In Action, Duty.....	26
Non Battle Injury, Duty.....	13
Combat Exhaustion, Transferred.....	14
Disease, Transferred.....	44

TOTAL 313

*Peter Reggic*

PETER REGGIC  
1st Lt., 66th Arm'd F.A. Bn.,  
S - 2

*Donald Cameron 25 Aug.*

INCL #1

HEADQUARTERS  
66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

31 January 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the majority of original overlays, message blanks, written notes and orders etc, required in the After Action Reports, were lost through enemy action or destroyed by burning.

*Peter Reggie*  
PETER REGGIE

1st Lt., 66th Arm F.A. Bn.,  
S - 2

HEADQUARTERS  
66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

11 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Period Covered 1 February to 28 February 1945.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

The 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn at the beginning of the period was in a rest area, troops being billeted in the villages of Bivange, Roeser, Krauthaus and Peppange, Luxembourg. Maintenance of equipment was done during this rest from combat and the officers and men were given six-hour passes to the city of Luxembourg.

On 5th February 1945 the Bn left the rest area at 0900, arriving in position north of Consdorf, Luxembourg at 1445. We were given the mission of general support to the 5th Inf. Div, and were reinforcing the fires of the 46th FA Bn at which time were in direct support of the 10th Inf Regt, 5th Inf. Div. Capt Wendell was In Off with the 46th FA Bn.

On 8th February 1945 elements of the 10th Inf Regt and the 11th Inf Regt, 5th Inf Div, crossed the Sauer River, the boundary between Luxembourg and Germany. Crossings were made in assault boats with great difficulty due to heavy enemy resistance and the swift current of the river. Firing consisted of smoke missions for the river crossing, counter-battery, harrassing and interdiction fires on road junctions, TOT's on towns and fires on enemy troops called for by observers. Ground observer from the Bn who manned the OP was Lt Doran.

On 10th February 1945 the 5th Inf Div succeeded in building a foot-bridge across the river and the same night heavy vehicular bridgongs were under construction.

On 11th February 1945 the Bn displaced to positions in the vicinity of Berdorf, Luxembourg, just west of the Sauer River. The Batteries were registered and supporting fires were continued.

On 13th February 1945 the 5th Inf Div elements were reported making good progress across the river and were receiving moderate resistance.

On 14th February 1945 Lt Col Wallace and Peep driver Pvt Hubert J. Plocinski were the first members of the Bn to enter Germany, Crossing the river on the newly constructed treadway bridge between Echternack and Bollendorf at 0925. Lt Sanders, Rcn Off of Btry "B" followed Lt Col Wallace crossing the river, making reconnaissance for a ground OP.

On 15th February 1945 the 50th FA Bn, 5th Inf Div relieved the 46th FA Bn and the 66th Armd FA Bn continued its general support mission reinforcing the fires of the 50th FA Bn.

On 18th February 1945 the Bn displaced at 1015 across the Sauer River over the treadway bridge just NW of Echternach, into Germany, occupying positions 2 kilometers west of Ferschweiler. We were in general support of the 5th Inf Div. The 66th Armd Field Artillery Bn was the first unit of the 4th Armd Div to enter Germany. Order of march was "C", "B", "A", and Hq. The 5th Inf Div was making good

After Action Report for Period Covered 1 Feb to 28 Feb 45 Continued.

progress against continued moderate resistance and on the 25th February 1945 had reached the west bank of the Prum River. Bn continued missions on enemy artillery batteries, vehicular activity, troop concentrations and towns.

On 21st February 1945 Bn displaced to a position just North of Shankweiler--order of march "A", "B", and "C". This position was directly behind the Inf dug in on the river bank approximately 1900 yards from the enemy. The Bn displaced along a route which was under enemy observation for approximately 2 1/2 miles. However, the movement did not draw any enemy fire. The Bn remained in this position until 25th February 1945 firing on targets from compass 6200 to 1800. Targets were both observed and unobserved missions.

At 1200 25th February 1945 the Bn reverted back to the 4th Armd Div, the 512th FA Bn taking over our mission of general support of the 5th Inf Div. Moving out at 1400 to an assembly area in the vicinity of Geichlingen, after which we moved out, arriving in position in the vicinity of Brimingen at 1655. The Bn mission at this time was to reinforce the fires of the 22nd Armd FA Bn, 4th Armd Div. The 4th Armd Div was committed in this area and given the mission of driving east and occupying the high ground north of Bitburg. The objective was reached by the 26th February 1945 and on the 27th February 1945 the Div had secured the ground East to the Kyll River. The Bn now in position on the East bank of the Prum River in the vicinity of Hermesdorf, remaining in this position at the end of the period. Firing consisted of the usual harrassing and interdiction fires and observed missions called for by FO's on enemy strong points, Infantry dug in, retreating enemy troops and enemy held towns--effect on all targets was reported very good and indications from our own and adjacent sectors show that the famous German Siegfried Line or West Wall is rapidly crumbling.

31,063 rounds of 105mm Ammunition were expended during the period.

During the period one member of the Bn was killed in action, Sgt Stephen Myers, and five lightly wounded.

Promotions: 1st Lt Peter Reggio to Captain and S/Sgt Claude B. Riddington acting 2nd Lt was commissioned 2nd Lt 7 Feb 1945. Cpl Norman M. Thomas to Sgt, PFC Leonard Tetenbaum to T/4, T/5 Melvin Rhodes to S/Sgt, and PFC Ernest R. Jones to Cpl.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Reggio*  
PETER REGGIO  
Captain, 66th Armd FA Bn

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After Action Report - continued

The 66th FA supporting the 166th Engineers front, the 22 FA supporting the front covered by CC B, the 191st FA and 696 FA in general support, the 704 TD Bn in Division Reserve in case of counterattack. The tank destroyer was to reconnoiter routes to best accomplish their mission. Lt Col Oden took advantage of the assembly of the staff and company commanders to remind them of certain administrative and G-2 information.

27 Sep - At 0800 the bn CP was moved to a new position. The companies remained in their positions. The new location was situated north and slightly west of Arracourt. The colonel left for CC A at 1200 and returned at approximately 1330 and summoned his staff and company commanders. The commanding officer and staff of the 53d Armd Inf Bn and the G.O. of the 22 FA was present. The commanding officer of CC A had given the mission of attacking Lanrey and reducing it. The 22 FA was to support the entire attack which was to come off at 1600. The 22 FA, the 191st FA, the 696 FA and the 704 TD Bn were to place smoke on the vicinity of coordinates 246-220. The 22 FA was to drop harassing fire on the town till just prior to the attack. A & C Cos were to jump off at 1600 from the high ground southwest and southeast of the town. They were ordered to come down off the high ground, pass the town and swing back through the town. A Co to drop a platoon on the northeast of the town or Lanrey to protect the open flank of C Co as that company swung around and down through the town. The armored infantry was to closely follow the attacking tanks and clear out the town. The attacking forces were protected from counterattack by the platoons of tank destroyers. At the completion of the attack, the 25th Cavalry of the 4th Armored Division was to pass through the town and outpost the north and the northeast. The attack was a complete success. 28 Sep - Lt Col Oden gave the mission to the bn CP. The bn CP was to focus on the town of Lanrey and the 25th Cavalry of the 4th Armored Division was to pass through the town and outpost the north and the northeast. The attack was a complete success. The division was ordered to remain in its position on the high ground surrounding Arracourt. The corps commander desired that all men be informed the position now held was not one of a defeatist. All supplies were being diverted to the First US Army and also in order to support the Third US Army. The roads would have to be established. He desired that the men be informed that the Third US Army occupied its position across the Moselle River mainly because of the efforts of CC A, 4th Armored Division. The 35th Inf Div was to be brought up on the right flank.

29 Sep - The commanding officer of CC A gave to Lt Col Oden the mission of sweeping the high ground from about northeast of Lanrey to Lezey. C Co was given the job. Two tanks were lost accomplishing this mission.

30 Sep - The bn remained in its positions and performed 1st echelon maintenance on vehicles and personnel.

FOR THE BATTALION COMMANDER:

IRVING M. HEATH  
1st Lt, Infantry,  
Adjutant.

1 Incl - Journal File

After Action Report - continued

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66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

AFTER ACTION REPORT \_ March 1945

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HEADQUARTERS  
66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO# 254, U.S.Army

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Period Covered 1 March to 31 March 1945

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

a. The period 1st to 31st March 1945 was particularly disastrous to the German Army; for it was during this time, that the Third U.S.Army, with the Fourth Armored Division, spearheaded through Germany's last defense lines before the Rhine. The history-making breakthrough of the Third Army threw the German Army into complete confusion along the entire western front. Immediately breakthroughs were effected by the 1st Army, the British 2nd Army and the American 7th Army. Chaos spread like a prairie fire within the Wehrmacht. Army headquarters were cut off and communication centers captured. The hard-pressed Nazi fanatics tried vainly to halt our rapid advance by utilizing every available force, including Hitler's secret army, the Volkstrum or "Pitch-fork Army".

The second phase of history-making operations was the crossing of the Rhine River. The Swift advances to the east and center of Germany, and the capture of important cities including Frankfurt, Hanau, Darmstadt, and equally important towns of Friedburg, Alsfeld and Hersfeld.

On 1st March 1945 the Bn, a part of Combat Command "B", had crossed the Prum River and occupied positions in the vicinity of Hermesdorf. CC"B" took the towns of Sefferweich and Malbergweich, objectives assigned the command in the 80th Inf Div sector. The 66th Arm'd Field Artillery Bn, reinforced the fires of the 22nd Arm'd FA Bn. Capt Wendell was In Off with the 22nd FA Bn. No observers were out.

On 2nd March 1945 the Bn was in position just north of Nattenheim firing harassing and interdiction missions. CC"B" pushed east toward Malberg, feinting a crossing of the Kyll River on 3 March 1945. The river was crossed the same night further to the south by elements of the 5th Inf Div. Remaining in position until 0430, 5 March 1945, the Bn crossed the Kyll River, going into position in the vicinity of Meisburg. Observers were Lt Doran with the 25th Cav and Lt Osborn with 37th Tank Bn. Missions called for included enemy tanks, guns, infantry, harassing and interdiction fires.

On 6 March 1945 CC"B" began its drive to the Rhine and at 0800 the Bn moved from its position in the vicinity Meisburg. Order of march was "A", "B", "C" and Hq. During the march Capt Edwards, Btry "C" Cmdr, placed an "A" Btry M-7 into position at 1000 and adjusted on an enemy tank which was firing on our column. A smoke screen was also laid down at this point enabling our column to pass. At 1230 three enemy tanks took our column under fire in the town of Oberstadtfeld. A platoon of Btry "B" went into position, placing direct and observed fire on the tanks. 2 withdrew and one was knocked out.

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After Action Report for Period Covered 1 March to 31 March 1945 (Cont'd)

Btry "C" lost two M-7's to the fire of these tanks at the entrance to the town. At the same time Btry "A" went into position and was adjusted by Capt Vogel on the enemy tanks. Smoke laid down enabled the column to pass. The Bn went into position at Ulmen at 1730, 6 March. Harassing and interdiction missions were fired. During the day's march, resistance was comparatively light. Enemy small arms, nebelwerfers and tank fires were encountered. Many prisoners were taken.

On 7 March 1945 the drive to the Rhine River continued with the high ground between Andernack and Koblenz north of Ochtendung being the division objective. The Bn left at 0900, arriving in position at 1515 in the vicinity of Ochtendung. Order of march was "B", "A", "C", Hq. Resistance was slight and unorganized. Many PW's were taken. No fire missions were called for.

On 8 March 1945 the Bn remained in the same position, fired the usual harassing fires and missions called for by observers on enemy columns and ferry crossings. CC"B" cleared several towns and villages toward the Rhine River. The 11th Armd Div came up on our left flank with Andernack as their objective.

On 9 March 1945 CC"B" swung its attack toward the north bank of the Moselle River at Kardin. At the approach of the column the enemy blew the bridge at Treis. Kardin contained the first organized resistance which we had met since crossing the Kyll River. Resistance consisted of arty and mortar fire, mines, machine-guns and small arms fire, and a few tanks. Fire missions were on enemy vehicles, tanks, mortars, and enemy gun positions. Observers included Lt Mitchell with C/35th Tk Bn, Lt Livingston with A/51st Inf Bn, Lt Sanders with C/51st Inf Bn, and Lt Doran with C/25th Cav, and Capt Wendell, Ln O with 35th Tk Bn. The 276th FA Bn reinforced our fires. Bn in position in the vicinity of Binningen and remained there until 11 March 1945, during which time CC"B" cleared resistance from the villages in their sector on the N bank of the Moselle River.

On 11 March 1945 the combat command moved back to the North side of the highway between Hambuck and Binningen. The 5th Inf Div moved in, taking over the area from south of the highway to the Moselle River. Ln O and observers were called back to the Bn.

On 13 March 1945 the Bn moved to the village of Schmitt, remaining overnight and on the 14 March 1945 the Bn moved back to their same positions at Dufus. Observers and Ln O were sent out as follows: Lt Mitchell with A/37th Inf Bn and Capt Wendell with 22nd Armd FA Bn.

On 15th March 1945 the Bn crossed the Moselle River and through the bridgehead on the south side which had been established by the 5th Inf Div. Mission of the 4AD was to seize the city of Bad Kreuznach to the east. CC"B" on the right and GGA was on the left. Bn was in position vicinity of Simmern. Harassing and interdiction missions were the only fires.

On 16th March the drive continued with elements of CC"B" to the Nabe River, capturing bridges intact and containing the ground south of Bad Kreuznach. CC"A" elements also continued to the Nabe River and held the ground N of Bad Kreuznach. Missions fired on included enemy vehicles, AA Guns, and harassing fires.

**After Action Report for Period Covered 1 March to 31 March 1945 (Cont'd)**

On 17 March 1945 the Bn fired harassing and interdiction fires and preparation fire on the town of Furfeld. The Bn moved into position in the vicinity of Furfeld at 1940 where we remained until the 20th of March 1945. The Bn fired on enemy troops, mortars and on enemy gun positions. Counter-battery fire was received on the 18 March 1945. Btry "C" lost an ammo trailer and Btry "A" lost its BC track. 19th March 1945 fire missions were more plentiful on enemy infantry, vehicles, tanks, and SP & AT Guns. Fire missions were also called on a 6-piece horse-drawn artillery column. Excellent effect was reported on all targets by observers.

On 20 March 1945 the drive to the Rhine River was completed. The Bn left Furfeld at 0530 and occupied positions in the vicinity of Pfeddersheim at 1950. Enroute the Bn went into position three times, firing on enemy vehicles, Inf and columns, called for by observers.

On 21 March 1945 the Bn displaced to positions in the vicinity of Beektheim, where it remained until 23 March 1945. On 22 March 1945 the Bn fired its 100,000th round of 105mm Ammunition, the total expenditure since commitment at Baida, Normandy, France, July 17, 1944. From a position in the vicinity of Beektheim on the west bank of the Rhine River, the round was sent across the river, landing squarely on an enemy target. Lt Col Neil M. Wallace, Commanding Officer, pulled the lanyard at 1206 assisted by members of Battery "A"'s 1st Section: Sgt Quinn, Chief of Section; Cpl Bennick, Gunner; T/5 Wilson, Driver; PFC Compton, PFC Rhodler, PFC Dunn and PFC Leichtman of the gun crew. The shell casing is being preserved and will be suitably inscribed marking the occasion, after which it will be placed among the archives of this Bn.

On 23 March 1945 the Bn moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Born-Barkheim, arriving at 1715. Observers and Inf officers were called in. The 5th Inf Div moved troops across the Rhine River and bridging operations by the 5th Inf Div were well under way. The 4AD was given mission of crossing river upon completion of bridge and to move to Hanau, east of Frankfurt.

At 1325 on the 24 March 1945 the Bn, in support of task force Oden, who's mission was to guard the south flank of CC"A" advance to Eberstadt, advancing east toward Alsbach.

On 25 March the Bn received orders to fall in CC"B"'s column, reinforcing the 22nd FA Bn fires. Advancing east to the Main River, the column captured a railroad bridge intact. Moving across the rail bridge the Bn went into position registered, then received orders from higher headquarters to go back across the river. The Bn then went into position in the vicinity Groh-Ostheim at 1945.

On 26 March 1945 the Bn fired a preparation on Aschaffenburg.

On 27 March 1945 the Div mission was to attack north to vicinity of Giessen, seal off or intercept German troops moving away from 1st Army's attack on our left. The attack, scheduled for 28 March 1945 with the Div in two combat command columns, CC"A" on the right and CC"B" on the left. The 66th FA Bn was in direct support of CC"B"; the 22nd and 191 FA Bns were reinforcing the 66th A FA Bn.

On 28 March 1945 the Bn moved out at 0600, advancing with CC"B" to Gebelnred. Little resistance was met. The Bn fired on the retreating enemy columns. Many PW's were taken and many allied PW's liberated.

After Action Report for Period Covered 1 March to 31 March 1945 (Cont'd)

On 29 March the Div continued its drive, its objective being Lauterback. The Bn joined the column at 0700 and we reached our objective and were in position at 1230. Resistance was light. Fired on enemy Inf, harassing and interdiction missions.

On 30 March 1945 the Bn moved with CC"B" at 1400 from positions in the vicinity of Lauterback to outskirts of Hersfeld. Resistance consisted of a few tanks, Bazookas, small arms and sniper fire. The town of Alsfeld gave some resistance; however, direct artillery and tank fire cleared the area, The town partially being burned to the ground.

On 31 March the Bn joined CC"B"'s column at 1340. Using the double-drive auto-bahn east to Homelach, the Bn arrived in position at dark. Enemy resistance continued about the same, enemy using a few tanks and SP Guns, AA and small arms. Luftwaffe came over regularly, dropping anti-personnel bombs and doing some strafing. Ack-Ack batteries and our fifty caliber weapons are keeping the planes from getting in close, minimizing damage and casualties to the columns.

b. 105mm ammunition expended during period was 12,719 rounds.

c. Members of the Bn killed in action during the period were as follows: 1st Lt Stanley L. Sanders, Btry "B" RO; T/4 A.A. Giobbi, T/5 C.E. Doyle, PFC J.J. Boley and PFC J.W. Sanders, all members of Btry "C". Members of the Bn wounded in action during the period were as follows: 2nd Lt J.R. Osborne, 1st Sgt J.J. Bruckey, S/Sgt J.P. Hoplauf, Sgt A.W. Hirschmiller, Cpl H.J. Plesinski, Cpl H.A. Haug, PFC's E. Byrd, M.G. Baird, E.J. Mitchell, F.R. Wittenberg, and Pvt's J.P. Harrington and F. Lohr.

d. Awards to members of the Bn during period were: Bronze Star Medals to S/Sgt J.J. Weiss, Cpl's R.F. Wiegel, T/5 C.D. Wright, T/5 B.J. Glex, PFC's S. Miceli, S. Smith, H.K. Ebner and J.A. Roman, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star to Cpl J.G. Marshall.

e. Promotions in the Bn during the month were: Acting 2nd Lt R.K. Broome commissioned 2nd Lt, T/4 L. Tetensbaum to T/3, Cpl M. Schüssler to T/4, T/5 J.R. Kurinsky to T/4, T/5 J.C. Still to T/4, PFC H.E. Laidig to T/4, PFC H.A. Dammis to Cpl, Pvt H.J. Plesinski to Cpl, Pvt V.H. Owens to Cpl, PFC J. Emerson to T/5 and Pvt S. Swing to T/5

f. Reinforcements during period:

Officers: 2nd Lt's Joseph A. Newworth and Frank R. Sommers.  
Enlisted Men: T/4 Paul L. Young.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Reggio*  
PETER REGGIO  
Capt, 66th Armd FA Bn  
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- 2 Incls:  
1. Journal  
2. Overlays
- not read*

[REDACTED] Bn  
HEADQUARTERS, 66TH ARMD FIELD ARTILLERY  
APO# 254, U.S.ARMY

3 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Period Covered 1 April to 30 April 1945.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. In compliance with the provisions of AR 345-105 the following After Action Report is submitted:

At the beginning of period the Bn, A part of Combat Command "B", left its position at Honeback, Germany at 0600. Btry "A" was the advance Btry. The general route was along the autobahn to positions at Willershausen. During the drive the Bn fired on enemy tanks, vehicles and Inf, and also a preparation fire for an attack on the town of Creuzberg. Observers were as follows: Lt's Mitchell with C/35th Armd Tank Bn, Romig with B/35th Armd Tank Bn, Doran with A/51st Armd Inf Bn, Neuworth with B/51st Armd Inf Bn, Livingston with C/51st Armd Inf Bn. Liaison officers were Capt Wendell with 35th Armd Tank Bn and Capt Reggio with 51st Armd Inf Bn.

On the 2 April 1945 the division established a bridgehead across the river at Creuzberg, and the 66th Armd FA Bn crossed at 1800, and went into position on its east bank. The Bn fired on enemy Inf, MG, SP Guns and enemy in town of Krauthausen. Enemy aircraft were very active and attempted to bomb the bridges at Creuzberg.

On the 3 April 1945 the Bn left its position and at 0700 Btry "C", the advance Btry, arrived in position at 1145 on NW outskirts of Gotha. Fired on numerous enemy targets with excellent results, including enemy aircraft on the airfield at Gotha.

On the 4th of April 1945 Gotha surrendered about 1000. The Combat Command moved through Gotha and went into positions NE of Ohrdruf. The 66th Armd FA Bn occupied a position in the vicinity of Muhlberg. Resistance was very light.

On the 5 April 1945 the Bn fired harassing and interdiction fires. Observers remained the same. Resistance was light. Enemy aircraft over our position, but they did not attack.

On 6 April 1945 the Third Army was ordered to hold, reason surmised-- the threat created by the pocketing of enemy troops in the First and 9th Army sectors. The 66th Armd FA Bn moved to positions in the vicinity of Schwabhausen. Liaison officers and observers were called in and the Bn remained in the same location until 11 April.

General Hoge, 4th Armd Div Cmdr made a visit to our unit on 8 April 1945. The 4th Armd Div was relieved by elements of the 80th and 89th Inf Div's.

On the 11 April 1945 the Bn was assigned to Combat Command "A", and moved from Schwabhausen to positions in the vicinity of Bucha. Observers were: Lt's Mitchell with C/8th Armd Tank Bn, Romig with B/8th Armd Tank Bn, Neuworth with A/8th Armd Tank Bn, Doran with A/51st Inf Bn, Pfahler with B/51st Armd Inf Bn, Livingston with C/51st Armd Inf Bn. Liaison officers were Capt Wendell with 8th Armd Tank Bn and Capt Reggio with 51st Armd Inf Bn. Enemy resistance was light.

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After Action Report for Period Covered 1 April to 30 April 1945 (Continued)

On 12 April 1945 the Combat Command was divided into two Task Force's, Btry's B & C with one and Btry A with the other. The two columns advanced along parallel routes, CC"A" going into position in the vicinity of Bobeck. The 66th Armd FA Bn went into position at Bobeck arriving at 0020, 13 April 1945.

On 13 April 1945 the Combat Command marched as a unit again, leaving positions at Bobeck at 0700. The advance moved very swiftly, enemy resistance being very light. Enemy attempted to blow-up bridges along route without success. The 66th Armd FA Bn arrived in position North of Glauchau at 1630. Fired on enemy gun position, vehicles, Railroad bridge and Inf.

On 14 April 1945 the Bn moved out with the Combat Command at 0905, arriving in position in the vicinity of Meinsdorf. CC"A" elements along sector approximately 5 Kilometers W of Chemnitz. During the advance, the column received a few rounds of enemy artillery fire along the autobahn. It was believed interdiction fire on an intersection. The Bn fired on a railroad train, enemy Inf and usual harassing and interdiction fires. The Div remained in positions along this sector until relieved by the 76th Inf Div.

On 20 April 1945 the Div moved back into assembly areas for rest, rehabilitation and maintenance of equipment. The Bn moved to town of Vollmershain, where all troops occupied houses.

On 24 April 1945 the Div moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Bayreuth, Germany. The 66th Armd FA Bn was assigned the town of Ober-Konnerstreuth where it remained until 1st May 1945.

During the period 1st April to 30 April 1945 the Bn fired 4,563 rounds of 105mm ammunition.

Members of the Bn killed in action during the period include 1st Lt Bertrand C. Wulf, Liaison Pilot, and Pvt William T. Morris.

Wounded in Action during period: Lt Col Neil M. Wallace, Major Robert E. Kulp, Captain Walter H. Wendell, T/Sgt Joseph Waldspurger, S/Sgt Glenn Austin, S/Sgt Maurice H. Bowman, Sgt John E. Golden, Sgt Francis A. Walsh, T/4 Henry E. Abrecht, T/4 Earl H. Derr, Cpl William L. Shaw, T/5 Hershell Bradshaw, PFC William H. Myers, Pvs Theodore T. Morton, Allen J. Freer, Eugene Celento, Earl E. Grimes. The above wounded men were all awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Awards received during period were: Silver Star Medal to Tec 4 Harvey L. Schelhorn; Bronze Star Medal to 1st Lt Robert E. Livingston, 1st Lt Grant H. Molett, 2nd Lt Delos W. Evens, M/Sgt Earl J. M. Betz, T/Sgts Harry J. Wardles, Joseph Waldspurger, Herman C. Zinsmeister, S/Sgts John P. Hopfauf, Herman J. Sheets, Sgts Arthur W. Hirschmiller, Alex S. Nuszer, Thomas L. Quinn, Steve Tokach, Alfonso L. Monaco, Norman M. Thomas, Cpls H. A. Dumais, R. L. Nemanich, Richard A. Robinson, Tec 5's Kieran W. Mernin, Henry A. Balboni, Norman Gordon, PFC's Clifford G. Ferguson, Richard G. Banks, Alfred J. Hendrickson, Fred R. Wittenberg, F. A. Orts, Pvs Frank J. Fuseck, P. C. Spaulding, John Falardo, Erman E. Brooks.

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After Action Report for Period Covered 1 April to 30 April 1945 (Continued)

The following promotions were made during period: S/Sgt Herman J. Scheetz to T/Sgt, Tec 4 Rene C. Meirsonne, Cpl Ferris E. Hosmer and Pvt Raymond R. Pitzer to S/Sgt. Cpl Leo L. Bofia, Cpl Raymond L. Jones and Tec 5 Thomas Fulton to Tec 4. PFC's Leo L. Bofia, Louis A. Pariseau, Willard C. Thomas, Charles W. Cable, Pvt Lewis A. Nelson to Cpl. PFC's Harold J. Wright, Rayburn N. Krebehenn, Pvs Charles P. Twamley, Lawrence D. Goddard, Miles W. Meek to Tec 5. Pvt Elbert C. Andrews to Tec 5.

The following reinforcements were received during period: PFC's Leonard F. Greenwood and Alvin Hodge, Pvt's Rosco C. Hroneick, Errol L. Hart, Michael M. Kains, Ernst E. Graeler, Nelson Hoffman, James T. Joyce, Joseph C. Jones, George J. Goggin, Donald Hobkirk and Obie D. Simms.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Reggio*

PETER REGGIO

Capt, 66th Armd F.A.Bn.

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2 Incls;  
Incl #1 - Overlays  
Incl #2 - Journal

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HEADQUARTERS

66th ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO 254, U S ARMY

14 June 1945

SUBJECT: After action report for period covered 1 May to 14 May.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following after action reports are submitted:

1 May 1945, the 4th Armored Division was released from 12th Army Group Reserve to XII Corps, 3rd Army. The Division has been in a bivouac area vicinity of Bayreuth, Germany since 24 April. The 66th occupying positions via Ober Kommersreuth, 2 kilometers south of Bayreuth.

The Division, upon release from a reserve status, immediately became operational and was ordered to an assembly area south of Regan, Germany. CC'A of which the 66th was a part, moved out 1st May, followed by CC'B and Reserve Command on May 2nd. The 66th closed in assembly area at Winsing, Germany, south of Regan at 1430, 2nd May.

3 May, the remainder of the division closed in their respective assembly areas. 4th Armored Division received a 48 hour alert order to move to Prague. The Germans and Russians both fighting fiercely for the city. German troops were reported to be shooting many Czechoslovakian civilians and terrorizing all who opposed. The Czech underground army was fighting with the Russians and as "gorillas" behind the German lines. A Czech controlled radio in Prague was frantically broadcasting appeals for aid to the Allies. Ground troops and air support were needed in the defense of the Czech Capitol.

5th May---Battalion received a route and area list to move to Prague. Forward observers were sent out to the 1st Tank Bn, 51st Infantry Bn and 25th Cavalry. Captain Russell, Adjutant Officer with 35th Tank Bn and Captain McGraw, 51st. 31 Jan 46

5th May--Lt. Colonel Mel F. Wallace, 66th, assumed command of the battalion today. Col. Wallace had been acting Division Artillery Commander during Colonel Graham's recuperation from wounds.

Fourth Armored Division moved out at 0600, objective, a bridgehead over the Otava River vicinity Strakonice, Czechoslovakia. Division marched in combat columns against, CC' on the right flank and CC'B on the left. CC'A passed through the 5th Infantry Division along the German-Czechoslovak border, while CC'B passed through the 5th Infantry Division to the left. CC'A passed by way of the Treysna Pass to Strakonice.

The bridgehead was secured at 1000, 5th May; the Division ordered to halt and patrols were sent out to the bridge line just

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East of Strakonice. The battalion went into position at Kovna at 1900. No resistance encountered, no ammunition expended. The advance turned out to be a tactical road march.

8th May 1945, while in position vic Kovna, General Doeritz ordered an unconditional surrender of all Germany. No enemy activity, forward observers still out with assigned units.

9th May 1945--Roads from the east, suddenly were jammed with fleeing German columns, who were trying desperately to surrender to the Americans, than to the Russians although, they had been ordered to stay in place. The columns included motor transport, armored vehicles, commercial cars, farm tractors hauling wagons, teams of horses and oxen hauling wagons and carts and hundreds trudging on foot.

The Battalion quickly assigned each battery an area and the disorganized German columns were herded off the highways into camps. The sorting and bivouacing of Germans lasted about two and one half days. The battalion guarded approximately 12,000 PW's.

10 May the Russians crossed the Restraining line and a column rolled into Strakonice. The German PW's became frantic upon sight of the Russians and in some cases armed guards only prevented the Germans from fleeing.

12 May, an advanced party consisting of the Battalion Executive Officer, Major Meyer and the Battery Commanders, left to reconnoiter and select billeting for the battalion in Kreis (county) of Rottenburg, Germany, our occupational area.

Guard and supervision of the German PW camps continued until 13 May, at which time the 51st Infantry Battalion took over our PW's and area. The battalion moved back to the vicinity of Repice, Czechoslovakia, approximately 2 Kms from our original locations.

14 May--The German PW's were marched east of Pisek and turned over to the Russians by the Division, according to an international agreement.

The battalion remained in bivouac at Repice, Czechoslovakia. Maintenance and care of equipment was conducted while awaiting orders for a final movement back to our occupational area in Germany.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Peter Reggio*  
PETER REGGIO  
Capt. 5th and P.A. 11  
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Operational Instructions