

AAAR 511 71  
AFTER ACTION REPORT

811 T.D. BN.

847-50

23 Nov 44 thru May 45

847-50

LIBRARY  
US ARMY ARMOR SCHOOL  
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF, AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO,  
THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT SECTION, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, S-2,  
BUILDING T-5, (T-1782),

881170101

100-309

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

3RD ARMORED INF BATTALION

1ST ARMORED DIVISION

JANUARY 1944 - MARCH 1945

APRIL 1944 - DECEMBER 1944

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF, AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO,  
THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT SECTION, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, S-2,  
BUILDING T-5 (T-1782).

The following  
image(s) may be of  
poor quality due to  
the poor quality of  
the **original**.

2 2 1 44

AFTER ACTION REPORT

811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period

23-30 November 1944

PART I

980-63.2

W. H. Stuebing Col. L. H. [redacted]  
8 Jan 46

14152  
93

AFTER ACTION REPORT  
811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
Period 23-30 November 1944

PART I

Section I - Introduction.

1. Campaign is the current campaign in western Europe.
2. The following are the maps and references used by this Battalion, minus Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Platoon, attached to CCB, 9th Armored Division: Northern France, Belgium, Holland 1944 GS, GS, 4414 index 46 - 1/25,000 sheets 6003, 6004, 6005, 6102, 6103, 6104, 6105, 6202, 6203, 6204, 6205, 6302, 6303, 6304, 6305. The following maps were used by Company A: 1/25,000 Germany 5502, 5503, 5504, 5505, 5602, 5603, 5604, 5605, 5702, 5703, 5704, 5705, 5802, 5803, 5804, 5805, 5902, 5903, 5904, 5905, GS, GS 4041, index No. 44, 81-NTS, 93-NTS, GS, GS 4416, AMS, M441, 1044, 1/200,000, T1, U1, V1, 107, (N&S, France and Belgium) 1/200,000 Mons-Luxembourg Sheet No. 4.
3. The Battalion Commander for this period was Lt Col A. R. BROWNFIELD, FA, and the Company Commanders were as follows:

CAPT HENRY J. CRONIN, TD, Company A,  
CAPT FRANCE B. McCONKIE, TD, Company B,  
CAPT DAVID G. COLLINS, TD, Company C,  
CAPT SAMUEL A. PARSONS, TD, Reconnaissance Company,  
CAPT HOWARD F. CLARKE, JR., TD, Hq & Hq Company.

Section II - Statistical Data.

The following is the statistical information regarding personnel:

1. Personnel losses 23-30 November - 2
2. Personnel Replacements 23-30 November - 5 AM and 2 Officers.
3. Prisoners of War taken - None.
4. Vehicular losses 23-30 November - None.
5. Vehicular Replacements 23-30 November - None.
6. Ammunition expenditures - 2,039 rounds of H&A, 9 rounds of smoke.

Section III

After a week's intensive preparation, this Battalion minus Company A and one reconnaissance platoon closed into prepared indirect fire positions and came under the control of Division Artillery, 9th Armored Division. Company B was located as follows: 1st Platoon, (500.288-332.957), 3d Platoon (500.559-333.452). The Company C positions were as follows: 1st Platoon (501.604-333.259), 2d Platoon (502.207-333.532) 3d Platoon (501.249-334.066). Companies B and C closed into positions by 1640, 23 November. Headquarters Company was located in Consdorf, and Reconnaissance Company at Christnach. Because of bad weather, which prevailed, no attempt to register was possible until 25 November. Both companies fired unsuccessfully, for all rounds were unobserved, and no positive results were possible. During this attempt it was cloudy, and visibility was only fair. Company B was able to register in the first attempt on the 26th, and the base point was a house, which was not visibly damaged. Company C attempted to register several times, but results were undetermined because of poor visibility. Later in the day, however, both companies fired on targets of opportunity including enemy troops. During the evening hours harassing fire was fired periodically, with results unknown.

On the 27th Company C fired on concentration K420, (town) and obtained good effect. Later in the day concentrations 5916, K414 were fired and were observed as direct hits in town.

After Action Report, 811th TD Bn, Period 23-30 Nov, cont'd.

The weather remained bad generally, and great difficulty was experienced in observing results of fire. Generally, fog and rain were common throughout the period, and because of the terrain the observers were hampered. The section fired into was generally hilly and many of the targets were concealed in deep draws and in heavily wooded areas. Because of extremely bad weather the 28th was completely unproductive. The 29th and 30th were devoted to harassing fires and numerous TOT's were fired.

Enemy actions were almost non-existent, with two exceptions. The 1st and 3d platoon of Company C were fired on briefly by an enemy patrol on the night of 27 November. This patrol was broken up and partially captured later the same night by other friendly troops. No evidence of any enemy counter-battery fire was noted.

Company A moved into indirect fire positions 28 November under the control of OCB, 9th Armored Division at the following locations: 1st Platoon (82.634-73545), 2d Platoon (82740-73570), 3d Platoon (82840-73596). They expended 263 rounds for the period, which was used for registration, and harassing fires which were unobserved.

The missions of this unit were harassing for the most part, with few opportunities for observed fire. The fires were unobserved almost without exception. Final results were necessarily unknown.

#### Section IV

No comments are desired for the period.

#### Section V

Overlay used is contained in Part II.

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-10-83 BY 1043

11 January 1945

Subject: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 December 1944.  
To: Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.  
From: Commanding General, 2nd Armored Division, AC 259, U. S. Army.

PART I

Section I - Introduction

1. Campaign Western Europe

a. Waldbillig-Christnach, Luxembourg,  
Storet-Villereux, Chenagne-  
Sanchamps, Belgium.

2. Maps:

Germany 1/25,000; Sheet No. 5702, 3, 5802, 3  
5804, 5802, 3; 5102, 3, 4, 5202, 3, 4,  
5302, 3, 4.

France and Belgium 1/25,000; Sheet 121 WS,  
1/50,000, Sheet 106, 107, WS, 121, 122, 136,  
137.

Belgium & NE France 1/100,000, Nos. 8-1, T-1,  
U-1, 15, 16 & 17.

Europe Road Maps Carter Michelin 1/200,000,  
No. 4, 1/200,000, 4, 56

3. Command:

a. During the period mentioned the Battalion  
operated under the following commanders:

Lt Col A. R. Brownfield - Battalion Commander.  
Company A - Capt Henry J. Cronin  
1st Lt Burton G. Sawyer  
Company B - Capt Francis B. McDonkie  
Company C - Capt David G. Collins  
Bn Company - Capt Samuel H. Parsons  
Hq - Hq Co - Capt Howard P. Clarke, Jr.  
Capt John Zakel, Jr.

Section II - Statistical Data.

	<u>Off</u>	<u>EW</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Killed in action	2	7	9
Died of Wounds or Injuries	1		1
Wounded or Injured in action	3	32	35
Missing in Action	4	78	82
Captured			
Sick & Other Non-Battle Loss	2	26	28
Total Losses	12	143	155

649-649-9  
380-63.2

75

14152

## 2. Personnel Replacements:

a.	Off	IA	BA
8 December	0	0	6
12 December	0	0	1
Total	0	0	7

b. Returned to Duty - 1.

## 3. Prisoners of War Taken:

19 December - 1  
 20 December - 3  
 22 December - 2  
 23 December - 2

Total 8

## 4. Vehicular Losses:

	HA	REN	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armored, Utility, M-20			2		7	9
Car, Armored, Light, M-8		3				3
Carriane, Motor, 76mm, M-18			4	3	10	17
Trailer 1/4 Ton, 2 wheel, Cargo					1	1
Trailer, Ammo, M-10			1	1	3	5
Truck 1/4 Ton, 4x4	3	4	4	1	5	17
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 wheel, Cargo			1			1
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4 w/c, 12 Volt System	1					1
Truck 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6			1			1
Total	4	7	13	5	26	55

## 5. Vehicular Replacements:

No vehicular replacements received.

## 6. Ammunition Expended:

70mm, HE	-	5,557
70mm, AT	-	149
Cal. 50 LG	-	35,840
Cal. 30 LG	-	17,740
Cal. 30 Rifle	-	8,254
Cal. 30 Carbine	-	4,756
Cal. 45 Ball	-	900
37mm, HE	-	119
37mm, AT	-	9
37mm, Canister	-	12
81mm, Mortar, HE	-	70
Rockets, AT, M23	-	106
Grenade, AT	-	95
Mine, AT, HE, M1A1	-	154
Grenade, Hand, Frag	-	537



### Section III - Narrative

This Battalion less Company A, and one (1) Reconnaissance Platoon continued its mission of supporting artillery under the control of Division Artillery, 9th Armored Division. This mission continued from the 1st to 16th, inclusive, and 2,368 rounds were expended on harassing and interdiction missions. Much of this fire was necessarily unobserved because of poor visibility. Fog and rain was predominant during this period of the month, which made accurate reports of fire difficult to the extreme.

Considerable effect was obtained in fire on towns east of the Sauer River. One oil tank was observed to have been set afire at Neiderwals, and many buildings in Eisenach, Schternach, and surrounding towns were observed to have been set afire, and undoubtedly damaged, and positive results were obtained.

During the period 13 to 16 December an increasing number of German patrols, planes and general activity became apparent. It became evident that the enemy was becoming aggressively active in this sector.

On 14 December, Company C, and one platoon of reconnaissance attached were ordered to GCR, 9th Armored Division and came under its control and moved to (F305-815).

At this time the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion (-) consisted of Company B, Reconnaissance Company Headquarters, one platoon reconnaissance, pioneer platoon, and Headquarters Company (-).

At 0600 hours on 16 December German artillery fire in considerable strength began to fall in the Scheidgen, Consdorf area. Enemy patrols were reported in strength in the area, and the forward observers were either unable to reach OP's or did so with difficulty because of shelling and heavy ground activity. Captain Parsons was involved in enemy action which, by this time, was obviously serious and in determined strength.

77

~~SECRET~~

The usual interdictory fire was carried out throughout the morning. A fairly heavy artillery concentration was received in Consdorf at approximately 1245. At 1450 orders were received to withdraw to new positions at (F495.60-333.93) in the vicinity of Waldbillig. Company B was ordered to new indirect fire positions at (F495.05-334.78) for first platoon, (F495.07-334.02) 2d Platoon, (F495.26-334.47) 3d Platoon. S-2 reported that the enemy had attacked all along the VIII Corps front. In the immediate sector the towns of Berdorf, Lauterborn, Osweiler, and Wickweiler are now held by the enemy. Waldbillig was shelled at 0015, 17 December 1944.

At 1045 on the 17th an enemy force of estimated strength of one regiment was reported advancing through the draw on our immediate right flank to Mullerthal. A reconnaissance patrol was requested by Division Artillery to investigate and retake Mullerthal. Company B was ordered into direct fire positions to repel a possible armored attack.

At 1100 hours the Battalion came under control of JCA, 9th Armored Division. Shelling of our positions continued intermittently.

Troop B, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron was ordered by the Commanding Officer, JCA, to take control of Mullerthal and help contain the German advances. Before this was possible one platoon of Troop A, 89th Reconnaissance, which was at that time in Mullerthal was compelled to withdraw. At the instigation of the Battalion Commander, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, an attack was planned independently in conjunction with the reconnaissance elements of the 89th Reconnaissance Squadron to retake Mullerthal.

The attack began at 1330 hours with one platoon of Company B moving down the road into the draw, with a screen of dismounted personnel of the 89th Reconnaissance Squadron. The remainder of the reconnaissance elements were to attack dismounted over high ground into woods NE of Waldbillig. The leading destroyer of the first platoon was put out of

78

~~SECRET~~

action of machine fire and the mortar were compelled to withdraw. The immediate effect was positive indication of strength, estimated to be at least a company. The elements of the force were reformed and the attack resumed at 1500 hours with the remaining tank destroyer of the first section, and dismounted men proceeding down the draw, and the second section to attack with the elements of dismounted men over the high ground. As darkness fell all elements were withdrawn. Results: Four machine guns definitely knocked out, and 13 enemy dead. New estimate of enemy strength in draw - one battalion. Outposts were established for the night. Lt Col Brownfield was given command of the sector from Mullerthal to vicinity of Savelborn by COA Commander. Company B had three men wounded and four missing. Headquarters Company had two men wounded. At this time one platoon of Troop A and Troop B, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron came under Battalion control.

During the next few days artillery fire on our positions continued to be heavy, and caused considerable damage to both personnel and equipment. No direct attacks were received, but information indicated heavy attacks on surrounding elements. The time was spent in consolidating <sup>and</sup> strengthening position as well as possible for expected attacks. Our artillery gave constant support throughout the period and helped to make our positions tenable.

On the 19th in a coordinated effort, with the unit on our left, one platoon of Company B destroyed a farm house by direct fire, and killed and wounded an unknown number of the enemy. This made it possible for adjacent units to capture 61 prisoners. At this time prisoners were identified as being members of 5th Company, 988th Regiment, 276th WG Division. They reported about 40 dead and wounded in the house. They had crossed the river on the 14th and had received no supplies due to the accuracy of artillery and TD fire.

[REDACTED]

Because of heavy pressure a plan of withdrawal was proposed for all units, but the ground would be held to the maximum degree. The right flank was static due to the pressure of friendly elements.

On the morning of the 20th three prisoners from 7th Company, 2d Bn, 987th Regt, 276th Vt, were taken by Troop B, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron. These men stated that they had no tanks, and only horse drawn transportation. Our artillery and TD's fire was so effective in Mullerthal Draw that one-half of their company was killed or wounded. The division and regiment commanders were also killed. The description of the effect of our fires was graphically stark; it was described in the following words: "The shrapnel was just like apples falling from the trees". The regiment crossed the river on Sunday on cables and fanned out to protect bridge construction, after which they moved into the Draw. The plan of attack was for the left battalion to flank Waldbillig with an attack on Christnach while simultaneously the right battalion attacked Waldbillig from the right. The morale was poor and many men wished to surrender, but were threatened with death by their officers.

At 1430 hours the enemy infantry estimated to be one company supported by two tanks attacked frontally from the direction of Haller at 968-338 and were repulsed. The attack came on again at 1630 (approximately two companies with three more tanks) and as darkness fell the enemy withdrew leaving approximately 50 dead, one tank destroyed and one probable (confirmed by Artv Lm plane the following day).

During this action the rear echelon withdrew to Christnach, and at darkness the combat elements also withdrew to high ground SW of Waldbillig. This became necessary because of insufficient infantry support to protect the guns. Patrols were maintained all night, and outposts screen was put out.

Task Force Chamberlain composed of two infantry companies, one tank company, and one field artillery battalion, was ordered to attack Waldbillig at 1000 hours on 21 December 1944 and take

90

[REDACTED]

high ground to the north, passing through our positions. Task Force Brownfield was to act as support for this operation. After two delays the attack jumped off at 1030, and gained the town. TD's supported by direct fire from high ground. Because of infantry casualties it became necessary to withdraw at night fall into the positions of Task Force Brownfield on high ground to southwest of Waldbillig. During the night one company of 61st Arm Inf Bn, 10th Arm Div, was brought forward to outpost the positions and provide necessary protection for our armor. All troops came under control of Task Force Brownfield.

During the following few days the situation became static with the enemy holding Waldbillig. One small enemy attack was mounted on the 23d from draw on right flank, but it was beaten off. During this entire period our positions received almost constant artillery and small arms fire both in the forward positions and in the town of Christnach. One mortar round landed inside the turret of a destroyer, killing one man and wounding one.

The enemy continued to bring up artillery and reinforcements and tank activity was reported throughout the area. Our artillery continued to pound suspected enemy gun positions in and around Waldbillig.

On the morning of the 24th elements of the 11th Regt, 5th Division, began an attack through our positions. At this time all of Task Force Brownfield was alerted for movement. During the day our guns were in direct support of the above mentioned attack.

At 2030 on the night of 25 December the billeting party of this organization and attached units left for Etalle, Belgium. The following morning all of our units were relieved and departed for assembly area at Schrondeweiler. At this time due to a change in orders CGA was ordered to Tronquay, Belgium, to support the 4th Arm Div. All units of CGA jumped off in attack on Sibret and Villeiroux at 0730 on the 26th. One platoon of Company E, reconnaissance section attached, were with Task Force Karsteder,

81

one platoon and reconnaissance section with Task Force Collins, and Task Force Brownfield, composed of Company B, 311th Tn, Troop B and E of 39th Recon Sq, Company A, 9th Engrs and reconnaissance of 311th Tn, remained in reserve under the direction of the Battalion Commander. During the day all forward elements moved to Vaux-les-Rosiers.

The mission of the reserve was to protect the road to Bastogne with active patrols and strategically placed outposts. During this time those elements of this organization with other Task Forces mentioned, supported them with direct fire support.

The following account is the report of the action of the 1st platoon of Company B with Task Force Karsteder, in the vicinity of Villersoux:

"Around 0600 hours on the morning of the 30th Sergeant Stacy had sighted either a Mark IV or Mark V tank directly to his front, immediately giving commands to gunner, Corporal Hatcher, the destroyer swiftly fired three rounds of APC at approximate range of 600 yards. All three rounds hit their mark destroying the enemy tank completely.

A few hours later at about 0900 hours, Sergeant Kucinski's destroyer, and gunner, Corporal Rush, sighted a large tank at approximate range of 800 yards. With the first round of APC the tank was knocked out and set afire. The infantry confirmed this and said it was a Mark VI tank. Sometime later this same destroyer got in their sights either a Mark V or Mark VI. With three rounds it was knocked out, but did not burn. Still later in the day Sergeant Kucinski's crew knocked out an enemy machine gun nest and possibly a mortar. In the same vicinity Sergeant Morgan's M-8 with Pfc Nestly knocked out an enemy occupied half-track at approximate range of 800 yards. In knocking this vehicle out they used their 37mm, 50 caliber and 30 caliber machine gun."

At 0830 on 30 December the reserve command was alerted to move to protect and reinforce the left flank of Task Force Collins. During the

~~SECRET~~

With the enemy made four attacks on this flank. The reserve command closed in Joleville at 1.30 and took up defensive positions. During the afternoon elements of the 11th Arm Div passed through this position, and at 1720 the reserve retired to original positions in Vaux-Les-Mosiers.

At the moment and the positions mentioned above were being held. Throughout the entire operation all elements of the battalion were forced to fight a defensive battle. Ill-equipped to cope with ground troops in close contact, all tank threats were effectively handled, and an unknown number of enemy infantry was killed or wounded, thus effectively halting enemy progress until reinforcements could be brought into action.

83

[REDACTED]

AFTER ACTION - COMPANY A

During the early days of December to, and including, the 12th, Company A remained in indirect fire positions in the vicinity of Leithum, Luxembourg. During this period all firing was done in conjunction with 16th FA, 9th Armd Div. Almost all firing was done at night, and was harassing and interdictory fire. Towns, crossroads, and areas, where enemy troops were believed to be billeted, were the targets. Results of fire were almost entirely unobserved.

On the 13th Company A as a part of CCB, 9th Armd Div, was alerted and moved to vicinity of Faymonville, Belgium. CCB was to support an attack of the 2d Infantry Division, which <sup>was</sup> to take and prevent the enemy from blowing three dams on the Ouer River north of Dreiborn, Germany. Company A's mission was to take and hold crossroads, vicinity of Dreiborn, after leading elements had reached their first objectives.

Before this plan could be carried out, the 1st platoon was ordered to 106th Division Headquarters at St. Vith, mission unknown. The fate of this platoon is uncertain, for no word has been received since that time, concerning mission, action or any result.

At 0300 on the 17th the remainder of the company was ordered to St. Vith, arriving there at 0600. Almost immediately the 2d Platoon was ordered to, and took up positions approximately 1,000 yards east of St. Vith on the high ground, to destroy enemy armor. During the day friendly artillery fell on their position, and one man was killed and three wounded. No armor being sighted, the platoon in conjunction with the 3d Platoon, which had remained in St. Vith, moved to a position of readiness NE of St. Vith. At 1730 the company moved to a bivouac area one mile southeast of St. Vith where it spent the night.

In the following day the company was ordered to a vital crossroads, 845-809, with the mission of holding. Elements of the 7th Armd Div were relieved during the early hours of the evening, and Company A proceeded to bivouac S. of Balhausen, 835-855.

84



3      0      0

[REDACTED]

On the 20th at 0600 the company proceeded to vicinity of crossroads at 852-842. With the 3d Platoon occupying the high ground just to the east of north and south road; the 2d Platoon took positions on the flank in the woods just east and south of the east and west road, approximately one mile from Neidingen. At 1500 hours enemy infantry moving west from Neidingen were met by security of 3d Platoon, the guns of which moved back to the woods bordering the road. The enemy appeared in the woods at 856-850. At 1600 HE and mortar were placed on this position and the enemy withdrew. At this time considerable artillery and mortar fire fell in the company position, continuing intermittently throughout the night. During the night hours enemy snipers and patrols infiltrated into the positions. At 2200 hours the reconnaissance platoon, which was connecting the two gun platoons was approached by a German patrol, estimated to be about 50-75 men. Upon being challenged the enemy replied with small arms fire. In the ensuing fire fight, it is estimated that two-thirds of the patrol were killed or wounded. At daylight the following morning a great number of bazookas were discovered abandoned, and it became apparent that the enemy intended to destroy our destroyers. Two prisoners were taken. At 0300 a patrol in force overran the positions of two destroyers of the 2d Platoon, but withdrew without causing any damage, due, no doubt, to the determined efforts of the personnel who continued to defend, although overrun. At 1000 hours heavy artillery and mortar fire began to fall on the positions and continued all day. During the night the enemy infiltrated into the positions, again, wearing American uniforms. It has been established that during this night direct fire from anti-tank weapons brought up under cover of darkness was directed into the positions by an enemy with bursts, long and short, from a Schmitzer gun. At 1330 hours the enemy was seen approaching from Galhousen, and they were dispersed by machine gun and 76mm fire. At 1400 hours the company was ordered to withdraw to Grufflingen if possible, which was accomplished without loss. The company went into a position

85

of readiness at 810-830. At 1600 the 2d Platoon moved to a position at a crossroads in Brullingen, 820-821 to repel possible enemy armor. During this entire period the town was under heavy fire from an undetermined number of tanks in the woods at 832-813.

No tank attack developed through the night, but the positions were constantly harassed by sniper fire.

At 0300 on the following day the company marched to Jevigne, Belgium, arriving at 1600. On the morning of the 24th the 2d Platoon moved to protect a crossroads at 875-853 where it was subjected to heavy artillery fire. Two prisoners were taken here.

On the night of the 24th CCB retired to Les Baty, Belgium, and remained in reserve until the 29th, when all elements moved to Sonal, Belgium, still remaining in reserve. At the month's end Company A still remained in a position of readiness. Throughout the operation, enemy armor constantly reported, failed to appear, and Company A, during its contact with the enemy, fought an unnatural and difficult battle, being in close contact with enemy infantry with little or no protection, and surrounded at least twice, and in addition was confronted with almost continuous artillery and mortar fire.

**SECRET**

**AFTER ACTION - COMPANY C**

Company C upon being attached to 3d, 9th Arm Div, proceeded to Anomen, Belgium, and arrived at 1500 hours on 14 December. The unit received artillery fire on the 15th at 2000 hours, and was alerted for movement. At 0615 on 17 December the 1st Platoon was ordered to the vicinity of Ouren, Germany, and upon arrival there at 0715 hours was led into previously selected positions by an officer of the 112th Inf Regt. Capt Collins had halted the column and was proceeding forward on foot when enemy tanks and infantry attacked. After a day long engagement the platoon was ordered to retire to Weiswampach, Belgium, by the Platoon Commander at 1100. At a cost of two M-18's, 1 M-20, five Jeeps and seven personnel, an unknown number of enemy infantry, and 14 Mark IV and V tanks were destroyed. At 0800 hours 18 December the platoon made a road march to the vicinity of Longvilley and rejoined the Company.

Upon his return to Company at 1000 hours 17 December, Captain Collins ordered the remainder of the Company alerted for movement to Ouren, Germany, to support the 1st Platoon. Movement was made to a position of readiness at Wilwerdang, Belgium. At 1101 hours a reconnaissance disclosed that road blocks and enemy fire made it impossible to move as planned. At 1400 hours the 2d Platoon was ordered to Clarvaux, Belgium, to support the 110th Inf. A force of enemy armor consisting of 27 tanks and half-tracks were engaged, and at 2030 hours the Platoon returned to rejoin the Company at Weiswampach, Belgium. One Mark IV tank, one personnel carrier, one armored car and an undetermined number of infantry in a building were destroyed with the loss of one M-18.

At 1800 hours 17 December the Company less 1st, 2d and one Platoon of Ron Company was ordered by GCR to move to bivouac area in the vicinity of Oberwampach, Belgium. Organisation closed in new area at <sup>17430</sup>~~1800~~ December and 2d Platoon rejoined the company for a road march from

87

**HEADQUARTERS 511TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403, U. S. ARMY**

**17 January 1945**

**SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 December 1944.**

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

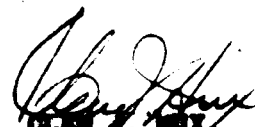
**THRU : Commanding General, 9th Armored Division, APO 299, U. S. Army.**

1. Upon checking Section XII (Narrative) of the After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 December 1944, submitted by this organization, the attached paragraph concerning the activity of Company C, 511th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was erroneously omitted.

2. The additional paragraph should be inserted on page 14 following the end of paragraph one (1) "and closed in new positions at 1400 hours, 18 December 1944" and before the beginning of the next paragraph, "At 0600 hours, 19 December 1944", etc.

3. Request the additional paragraph be inserted in order to have a more complete report from this organization.

**For the Battalion Commander:**

  
U. S. ARMY,  
APO 403, USA,  
Adjutant.

At 1300 hours, 18 December 1944 the 2d Platoon plus the first Platoon, its security moved into position at Loinet, Belgium, and closed into new positions at 1430 hours. At 1500 hours the 3d Platoon encountered enemy infantry plus eleven tanks. Six tanks were destroyed plus unestimated number of enemy infantry. At 1700 hours, 18 December 1944, enemy artillery shelled the 3d Platoon's positions at Mincarage, and the platoon was forced to move one mile south, and take up positions 300 yards to the right (or south) of the 2d Tank Battalion. At this point the 2d Tank Battalion, under heavy fire, abandoned their vehicles, and the 3d Platoon had to move again to Longvilly, Belgium. The Platoon was then ordered by CCR to protect the northern sector of the town of Longvilly with two destroyers, the other two were attached to the 73d Field Artillery Battalion. At 1730 hours, 18 December 1944, the supply train made march from Longvilly, Belgium to one mile west of Longvilly to temporary bivouac. Supply train remained in temporary bivouac until 2330 hours. At this time the unit was alerted due to heavy shelling, and ordered to move to vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium. At Bastogne the unit was ordered to move to vicinity of Tintigny, Belgium, to billets, and closed in Tintigny, Belgium, at 1530 hours 19 December 1944.

[REDACTED]

ulwerdang to the vicinity of Oberwampach, Belgium.

At 1000 hours 18 December Company less 1st Platoon and one Platoon of Ron Company was ordered by GCR to make road march to vicinity of Longvilley, Belgium. Gun positions were established south of Longvilley, Belgium, with the command echelon in Longvilley. At 1230 hours 18 December the 3d Platoon was ordered by GCR to change their gun positions to vicinity of Wincarage, Belgium, and closed in new positions at 1400 hours 18 December 1944.

At 0600 hours 19 December 1944 the 2d Platoon made effort to get to Bastogne, Belgium. Encountered enemy small arms fire and destroyed enemy scout car plus personnel. At this point the enemy had surrounded the 2d Platoon and they were ordered by Lt Dodge to abandon vehicles and destroy same, which they did. Lt Dodge's men were in rear of enemy lines for four days.

At 0200 hours 19 December the 3d Platoon in position at Longvilley, Belgium, was attacked by enemy infantry. In this engagement the 3d Platoon destroyed enemy personnel carrier loaded with infantry plus unestimated number of foot troops. All of Ron vehicles were lost in this engagement. At 0530 hours 19 December Lt Bong was ordered to send one destroyer to investigate a number of enemy tanks at rear of Team Cherry of the 10th Armored Div, who were in column west of Longvilley, Belgium. This destroyer found four Mark IV's in column but was ordered not to fight, but to return and protect the rear of Team Cherry Column. At 1200 hours 19 December enemy armor and infantry attacked Longvilley, Belgium, in force, and at 1230 hours 19th GCR of the 9th Armored Div moved out of Longvilley and their move was covered by the 3d Platoon and in this covering action the 3d Platoon lost three destroyers and was credited with one enemy tank plus foot troops. The 3d Platoon's security vehicles were jammed in the 9th Armored Div armored column and could not get out, and the enemy was shelling the column with field artillery pieces and mortar fire. Lt Bong considered

90

\_\_\_\_\_

At 0530 hours 22 December the M-18 of the 3d Platoon was relieved from attachment to the combat team of the 10th Arm'd Div and was sent to Champs, Belgium, where in the company of two destroyers of the 705th TD Bn, and infantry of the 101st Airborne Division, seized the town of Champs and all the high ground around the town. During the night of the 23d the remaining M-18, under the control of Sergeant Snipulski, and the gun manned by Corporal Zickafoos, knocked out two tanks. Their mission in this engagement was direct support of the infantry. This position was held for three days and nights, and on 25 December the last M-18 of the 3d Platoon was knocked out by enemy mortar fire after repeated enemy attacks. After their vehicle was knocked out the men were used to relieve the men of the 609th TD Bn, also as security in the town of Bastogne.

91

Upon arriving in Villers-Sur-Semone outposts were established and a 24 hour patrol was put into effect.

From 24-28 December Company C maintained outposts and road patrols as well as obtaining lost and damaged equipment. At 1000 hours 29 December at Villers-Sur-Semone, Belgium, organization was ordered to move to Tintigny, Belgium, arriving there at 1035 hours, and found billets.

On 30 December at Tintigny, Belgium, at 0300 hours the Company was ordered to report to <sup>2nd TKB</sup> ~~Headquarters~~ in preparation for move to Las Louches, France. At 0930 hours organization made road march to Las Louches, France, arriving at 1700 hours and was billeted.



OFA  
Eto-

HEADQUARTERS 811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

11 February 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1-31 January 1945.

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

THRU : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army.

1. Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1-31 January 1945.

2. During the period covered by this report this command was attached to the 9th Armored Division, 7th Tank Destroyer Group, 17th Airborne Infantry Division, 87th Infantry Division, and 11th Armored Division. In addition portions of this Battalion were attached to the 4th Armored Division, through CGA of the 9th Armored Division, and also the 101st Airborne Infantry Division.

3. Even though, in the opinion of the commanding generals mentioned in paragraph 2 above, this Battalion operated efficiently while under their command, it is my belief that a tank destroyer battalion could operate much more efficiently if it were attached to one division permanently. This would enable the tank destroyer battalion and the division to work out standing operating procedures, to learn what to expect of each other, and what not to expect, thereby becoming familiar with how each other operated. The morale of both organizations would be greatly improved. Further, the knowledge that they would be relieved with the division to which they were attached would greatly increase the morale of the tank destroyer battalion.

*A. R. Brownfield*  
A. R. BROWNFIELD,  
Lt Col, FA,  
Commanding.

SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

1-3 January 1945

This battalion less Company A, and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, and Company C, and one platoon of Reconnaissance were attached to CCA, 9th Armored Division, and continued on it's mission of support with the 4th Armored Division in retaking the surrounding towns around Bastogne, Belgium, and direct support in the opening the Neufchateau and Bastogne highway. During the first few days of the month they were being held in reserve in position at Vaux-Les-Mosier, Belgium.

3-6 January 1945

At 1430 hours, 3 January 1945 CCA and attached units were ordered to a marshalling area at Tramorant, Belgium, and on 4 January units attached to CCA (-), Company B and one reconnaissance platoon, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, made a motor march to Touteron, France, via Etalle, Belgium, Virton, Monmedy and Sedan, France. Company B and one reconnaissance platoon were ordered to report to General Taylor, Belgium, Barracks, Bastogne, Belgium, on an independent mission. (A brief discourse of their activities follows at the end of narrative for the period of 3-17 January 1945) Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, closed in at Touteron, France, and Reconnaissance Company (-) three platoons closed in at Cherbogne, France, where they remained until 8 January 1945.

6-8 January 1945

On 6 January 1945 the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion less Company A, B, C and three Reconnaissance Platoons were relieved from attached CCA of the 9th Armored Division and reverted to Division control, and Company C, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one reconnaissance platoon of Reconnaissance Company,

[REDACTED] 4 [REDACTED]

811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, were relieved from attached to CCB, 9th Armored Division, and reverted to Battalion control. They were billeted at Les Louches, France. On 7 January 1945 Company A and one reconnaissance platoon of Reconnaissance Company, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, were relieved from attached CCB, 9th Armored Division, and reverted to Battalion control.

8-16 January 1945

On 8 January 1945 the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from 9th Armored Division and attached to 7th Tank Destroyer Group, and were ordered to move to the vicinity of Bellefontaine, Belgium. Reconnaissance Company closed in at Bellefontaine, Belgium; Headquarters and Headquarters, and Company C closed in at St. Marie, Belgium, and Company A closed in at Fratin, Belgium. On 10 January 1945 Company C, which consisted of only two gun platoons, and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was ordered to move to Vaux-Les-Rosiers, Belgium, and remain in reserve for an anticipated tank attack in front of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division. After a shift was made in the remaining equipment in the battalion, one platoon of Company A was ordered to move to the position of Company C, and Company C with one platoon of Company A were attached to the 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (A brief discourse of their activities follow at the end of this report.) During the period 10-16 January 1945 the remaining elements of the Battalion were busily engaged in getting reequipped and refitted for further possible action.

17-25 January 1945

On 17 January 1945 the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to 17th Airborne Infantry Division, and moved to the vicinity of Bertogne, Belgium.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

P(52-67). A forward command post was established at Compegne, Belgium P(550-671) where operations were carried on in conjunction with the different regiments of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division. The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion Rear closed in at Bertogne P(52-67); Reconnaissance Company at Egreux, Belgium P(547-711); Company A less one platoon at Lengchamp, Belgium P(535-635), later moving to Gives, Belgium P(500-657); Company B who was supporting the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division at Wicourt, Belgium P(60-68) and Company C who was supporting the 507th Parachute Infantry of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division and closed in at Vissule, Belgium P(500-657). Little resistance was encountered throughout most of the period. On 19 January 1945 the second platoon of Company C moved to the vicinity of Houfalize, Belgium P(70-70), and fired eleven rounds of HE and one round of HVAP on a church steeple located at Vissule, Belgium. From information received this was being used as a German CP. On 20 January Company B moved to the vicinity of Steinbeck, Belgium P(644-694). Actual engagement with the enemy became more or less static and was confined mainly to patrolling with both Company B and C being held in readiness. The chief obstacle being the weather, terrain, occasional roadblocks, mines and destroyed bridges. On 22 January Company C's gun positions were moved to one-half mile east of Limerle, Belgium, and supported the 193d Glider Infantry Regiment. Gun positions were moved to P(733-755) on the morning of 23 January 1945. Position of Company B remained the same. On 25 January 1945 Company C moved to vicinity of Hauthballain, Luxembourg (745-749); Company B closed in at Wattermal, Belgium P(75-77) in support of 513th Glider Infantry Regiment, and forward CP closed in at Steinbeck, Belgium P(691-735).

[REDACTED] 10 [REDACTED]  
26-28 January 1945

On 26 January 1945 Company C moved to Huldange, Luxembourg (771-745) and Battalion CP closed in at same location at 1900 hours the same day. Reconnaissance Company (A) two platoons closed in at same location at 1600 hours. The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved from attached to the 17th Airborne Infantry Division and attached to the 87th Infantry Division. Company B was used to support the 346th Infantry Regiment and Company C was supporting the 347th Infantry Regiment. The Reconnaissance Platoons with Companies B and C, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, were relieved and reverted back to Company control. With Reconnaissance Company under Battalion control the platoons were sent on reconnaissance missions on 27 January assisting in the support of both Companies B and C of the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Two platoons of Company C advanced to Lengler, Luxembourg (800-776) and Company B advanced to Eppeler, Luxembourg (800-795). One platoon of Reconnaissance Company received light enemy artillery fire in Gruflange, Luxembourg, but it did not delay their mission. Two prisoners of war were taken by the third platoon of Reconnaissance Company.

29-31 January 1945

On 29 January 1945 conditions remained practically the same as the previous day. Weather conditions were such that operation of the destroyers over the terrain was hindered. Late on 29 January 1945 orders were received from VIII Corps Headquarters that the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion would be relieved from attached to the 87th Infantry Division and was attached to the 11th Armored Division, and would be held in Corps reserve. The 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved Companies B and C in the line.

All during the period of operation it was apparent that all along the Division sector the enemy was withdrawing to the Sigfried Line, and the only

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

contact being made was with enemy rear guard. A very weak defensive attitude was displayed by the enemy and during this period only three enemy tanks were sighted by Division Air Observation and were never sighted by either Company B or C.

The Battalion operated successfully under several different commands. Although both Company B and C operated with a minimum of personnel and equipment, because of previous losses suffered in the initial counter-attack, their efforts, initiative and skill were influential in assisting the clearance of the Ardennes Sector of the enemy and making possible a further advance through the enemy lines.

## - PART II

The activities of Company B, who were not under Battalion control, from 3-16 January 1945 were as follows:

Commanding Officer, Company B, reported to General Taylor, 101st Airborne Infantry Division, where he received orders to proceed to Savy, Belgium. One platoon of Company B worked in conjunction with the 327th Armored Infantry of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division. After accomplishment of mission they were relieved and Company B and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, were attached to Combat Team Cherry, 4th Armored Division. The first platoon was attached to support the first Battalion, 501st Armored Infantry and moved to (57-60), and the third platoon was attached to support the second Battalion, 501st Armored Infantry. The second platoon was attached for support of the 506th Armored Infantry. ~~The second platoon was attached for support of the 506th Armored Infantry.~~ During this time no enemy tanks were sighted, but the entire Company worked in close cooperation with the 4th Armored Division in driving the enemy from the towns surrounding Bastogne, Belgium.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 64

**SECRET**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

PART III

The activities of Company C, not under Battalion control, from 12-16 January 1945:

The Commanding Officer, Company C, reported to the Commanding Officer of the 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion after closing his column at Juseret, Belgium P(435-133). On 12 January the Company was assigned to the 11th Armored Division and moved to Longchamps, Belgium. The Company was attached to CCA of the 11th Armored Division on 13 January and one platoon was attached to Task Force Stubbs of CCA and moved to Monaville, Belgium. On 16 January CCA ordered two platoons to move to vicinity of Mabompre, Belgium, and were in position at this point when the 311th Tank Destroyer Battalion was assigned to the 17th Airborne Division ~~when~~ the 11th Armored Division was relieved ~~from~~ the 17th Airborne Infantry Division.

*Blaine C. Taylor*  
BLAINE C. TAYLOR,  
Major, TD,  
S-3.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

65

**SECTION II**

**3-2 REPORT**

Maps: 1/ 50,000 France & Belgium.  
Sheet No. 93, 107, 106, 121  
& 122.

1/100,000 Belgium & NE France.  
Sheets 13, 16, 17 & S. 7.

1-3 January 1945

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by Lt Col A. R. Brownfield, less Company A, with one reconnaissance platoon attached and Company C, with one reconnaissance platoon remained attached to UCA, 9th Armored Division. The mission of UCA was to retake towns which were German strong points south and southwest of the encircled city of Bastogne, Belgium. Enemy units in contact were the 130th Pz Lehr Division and Remer Brigade with elements of the 3d Pz Div in the Sibret-Sandchamps area southwest of Bastogne.

Company B, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was used in direct support during the reopening of the vital Neufchateau and Bastogne highway, thereby enabling supplies to roll into the 101st Airborne Infantry Division, as well as to allow the evacuation of wounded.

The Pioneer Platoon of Reconnaissance Company under the leadership of Lt Paul W. Jones, O-1823741, on 27 December 1944 removed wrecked vehicles and road-blocks from the highway to permit the flow of traffic to and from the besieged city.

The Battalion forward CP was located at Vaux-Les-Rosiers, Belgium P(445-480).

3-8 January 1945

At 1430 hours, 3 January 1945, UCA and attached units were ordered to a marshalling area at Traimont, Belgium P(461-418), and on the 4th of January 1945 units attached to UCA (-), Company B and one reconnaissance platoon, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, made a motor march to Tauteren, France P(760-091), via Stalle, Belgium, Virton, Belgium, Montmedy and Sedan, France. Headquarters and



RECEIVED

Headquarters Company closed in at Touteren, France, at 1700 hours and Reconnaissance Company (-) three platoons closed in at Charbogne, France P(725-050), at 1700 hours where they remained until 8 January 1945.

8-18 January 1945

For the activities of the Battalion during the period 4 January 1945 to 18 January 1945 see the 3-3 Summary.

18-25 January 1945

On 18 January 1945 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance Company and Company A moved to Bastogne area. Headquarters and Headquarters Company located at Bertogne, Belgium P(522-671); forward CP at Compogne, Belgium P(550-672); Reconnaissance Company at Engreux, Belgium P(547-712), and Company A at Longchamps, Belgium P(586-635).

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 17th Airborne Infantry Division 18 January 1945.

On 19 January 1945 the enemy was found to have dug in positions along the road P(628-708), P(626-704), P(629-704), and along railroad at P(620-689), P(616-668) and P(617-683). Unoccupied foxholes were located at P(620-677). Enemy units on our front have been identified as elements of 130th Pz Div, 26 Inf Div and GHQ Engr Units.

Company A, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion moved to Givès P(500-657) 1600 hours, 19 January 1945.

On 20 January 1945 the enemy continued his defensive policy in the area Alhoument, Belgium P(629-703). Patrols to south of 17th Airborne Infantry Division area report negative. There is indications that the enemy is withdrawing from the Division sector in the direction of east and southeast.

There was continuous patrolling on 21 January by our forces in preparation for attack to the east. (See attack order FO No. 7, 17th Airborne Division,

dated 21 January 1945). Minefields found in woods on south bank of the L'Ourthe River between P(522-735) and P(6505-7380).

Company B on the above date was operating with the 194th Glider Infantry. Company C was in direct support of 507th Parachute Infantry. Patrolling revealed additional withdrawal of German forces.

Forward CP, 511th Tank Destroyer Battalion, moved to Tavigny, Belgium P(644-964), at 1555 hours, 21 January 1945.

On 22 January our patrols received small arms fire at the Luxembourg border. Enemy outpost line is believed to follow Belgium-Luxembourg border from P(719-778), P(745-781), P(743-744), and P(747-753)). It is expected that the enemy will continue to withdraw to south and southeast.

The enemy dug in at Wattermal, Belgium P(745-771). Hautballain, Belgium P(744-745) has been cleared of enemy. Four Germans killed, five PW's taken, and about forty driven from town by our patrols. The enemy is defending generally along a line P(744-700), P(750-760), P(753-747), and P(750-737).

Remnants of the 1128th, 1129th and 1130th VG Regiments of 560th Division (Approximately 250 men), 11th Pz Gr Regiment of the 9th Pz Div (95 men). Elements of 104th Pz Gr Regiment, 15th Pz Gr Division have been identified in this sector. It is believed that this is the only enemy covering forces remaining.

On 25 January 1945 continued advance by our forces. A very weak defensive attitude has been displayed by the enemy. Three enemy tanks made appearance, fired, then retired to position P(800-795). Air-Ground observation reports enemy traffic withdrawing behind southern line.

**SECRET**

26-28 January 1945

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved from attached to 17th Airborne Infantry Division and attached to 87th Infantry Division in direct support. Company B with 346th Infantry Regiment. Company C with 347th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance platoons reverted to Battalion control at 1700 hours, 26 January 1945.

An aggressive reconnaissance forward is being instituted by our Reconnaissance platoons, working all road nets in zone of advance. Expected route to be taken is Thommen, Schirm, Neubruck and on. Tank Destroyers in full support of infantry.

Lt Lennart O. Sundstrom, Reconnaissance Company, took two PW's near Bieler P(823-752).

Heavy artillery fire received at Thommen and Espeler.

Forward CP moved to Huldange, Luxembourg P(771-754), January 27, 1945; Company C at Durler P(813-781); Company B to Neubruck P(835-847). One platoon in reserve at Espeler P(800-795).

Roadblocks reported south of St. Vith 28 January 1945. Road from Grufflingen to Oudler P(830-794), and from Oudler to Burg-Reuland P(858-785) now being cleared.

Three enemy tanks reported at P(867-803). Being investigated by Reconnaissance Executive Officer. This report was investigated personally by Battalion S-2. His report on this was negative.

29-31 January 1945

On 29 January 1945 the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from 87th Infantry Division and attached to 11th Armored Division in reserve. There

[REDACTED] **REDACTED**

as no contact with the enemy at this time, who is evidently withdrawing behind  
his defenses of the Siegfried Line.

*Melvin J. Bryson*

MELVIN J. BRYSON,  
Captain, TD,  
S-2.

SECTION III

S-4 REPORT

1-31 January 1945

During the month of January 1945 the greater portion of the time was spent in drawing personnel equipment, communications equipment and vehicular equipment lost during the previous month during the enemy counter-attack. The personnel equipment as well as the vehicular equipment was delivered to the companies while in the line.

Working in close coordination with the Battalion Motor Officer, vehicular equipment was exchanged between the companies on the line, repaired in the field and replaced. No effective loss of fire power was sustained by the companies. Due to the previous loss Company C and Company B operated nine guns per company.

Communications equipment lost during the previous engagement was replaced in vehicles as soon as they were issued to the respective companies. During the entire month constant communications was had with the two companies.

Class III and Class IV supplies were easily accessible. Weather conditions and road congestions were the only factor to cause any delay, but neither one of the two companies suffered as a result of the unavoidable delay.

No vehicles were lost during the month as a result of vehicle accidents.

The following information is submitted showing the distribution of vehicular replacements and loss and the expenditure of ammunition:

Vehicular Losses:

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Car, Armored, Utility, M-20						
Car, Armored, Light, M-8						
Carriage, Motor, 76mm, M-18						
Trailer 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo						
Trailer, Ammo, M-10						
Truck 1/4 Ton, 4x4	1			1		2
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo						

Vehicular Losses (cont'd)

Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/c,  
w/12 Volt System  
Truck 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6

Total

<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	0	0	1	0	2

Vehicular Replacements:

Car, Armored, Utility, M-20  
Car, Armored, Light, M-8  
Carriage, Motor, 76mm, M-18  
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo  
Trailer, Ammo, M-10  
Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4  
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo  
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4 w/c,  
w/12 Volt System  
Truck 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6

Total

<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
		1	1	6	8
	1				1
		2		5	7
1			1	2	5
1				3	4
		1			1
1	1	4	1	14	21
			2		22

Ammunition Expended:

76mm, HE - 11  
76mm, APC - 0  
Cal. 50 MG - 0  
Cal. 30 MG - 0  
Cal. 30 Rifle - 0  
Cal. 30 Carbine - 0  
Cal. 45 Ball - 0  
37mm, HE - 0  
37mm, APC - 0  
37mm, Canister - 0  
81mm, Mortar, HE - 0  
Rockets, AT, M6A3 - 0  
Grenade, AT - 0  
Mine, AT, HE, M1A1 - 0  
Grenade, Hand, Frag - 0

*[Signature]*  
Captain, ID.  
Ad.

~~SECRET~~

SECTION IV

S-1 REPORT

1-31 January 1945

811th TD BN

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT<sup>1</sup> BY TYPE OF CASUALTY  
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to  
and including 31 January 1945 for the  
period 1-31 January 1945.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>NIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD'S</u>
1 Jan				1		1	
* * *							
7 Jan			7			7	
* * *							
10 Jan			2		1	3	1
* * *							
12 Jan			2		1	3	
13 Jan			8			8	1
14 Jan		3*	2			5	
15 Jan							2
16 Jan			1			1	
* * *							
18 Jan			1			1	
19 Jan				1		1	
20 Jan							1
* * *							
29 Jan							3
30 Jan							1
31 Jan							<u>2</u>
TOTAL		3	23	2	2	30	11

\*2 DOW 19 Dec 44 - 1 DOW 25 Dec 44 reported on M/R of 14 Jan 45.

~~RESTRICTED~~

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PTS</u>
28 Jan 45	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>2</u>

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
15 Jan 45	77
16 Jan 45	11
23 Jan 45	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	91

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45, incl.

<u>NO.</u>	
—	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
—	Distinguished Service Cross
—	Silver Star (Posthumously)
<u>4</u>	Silver Star
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
—	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
<u>9</u>	Bronze Star Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
—	Air Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
—	Soldier's Medal
<u>12</u>	Purple Heart Award
<u>2</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
—	(2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart



HEADQUARTERS

511TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AFPO 408, U. S. ARMY

5 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 26 February 1945.

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

FROM : The Commanding General, 80TH Infantry Division, AFPO 80, U. S. Army

Submitted herewith in accordance with Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the 511th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1-26 February 1945.

a. Administrative Remarks:

- (1) A supply truck (1 1/2 Ton), and ration truck (2 1/2 Ton) should be authorized for Hq & Hq Co, Tank Destroyer Battalion.
- (2) A supply truck (1 1/2 Ton) should be authorized Ron Co, Tank Destroyer Battalion.

b. Remarks Tactical:

During the month of February this Battalion was, for the most part, attached to the 80th Inf Div. This Division had already built up an SOP for tank destroyer employment, whereby one company of Tank Destroyers was attached to each Inf Regt. In turn, the Inf Regts usually attached a tank destroyer platoon to each Inf Bn. Such a system of allotment and sub-allotment has been proven many times to be erroneous. In the first place, the Bn Comdr loses control of his battalion. As a consequence, most of his specialized training, knowledge, and experience is not utilized. Likewise, his specially trained staff has no real function under this system. The same, of course, is true of the Co Comdr when the tank destroyer company is sub-allotted to Inf Bns. Secondly, it poses a real liaison problem. Neither the tank destroyer company or platoon have the necessary equipment, or the trained personnel, necessary to effect the required liaison under such a system. In the third place, a communication problem of some magnitude is introduced. Neither tank destroyers or Inf have radios which will not together. Fourthly, the frequent result of such a practice is gross misuse of the attached unit, due to lack of knowledge of the proper employment of tank destroyers on the part of Inf Bn Comdrs. During this month three (3) destroyers were lost due to mis-employment. Such losses due to mis-employment had a decidedly detrimental effect on the morale of the company concerned.

It is recommended that, in addition to the announced War Department doctrine of indirect fire as the secondary mission for tank destroyers, a secondary mission be given them of direct support of Inf Regts for two companies, and general support for the third company. Such a mission, and system, places

Ltr 811th TD Bn (5 Mar 45) "After Action Report against the enemy, 1 - 28 February 1945".

the tank destroyer company in the same position with respect to the Inf Regt as is now occupied by its' direct support FA Bn. Such a system has many advantages:

- (1) The tank destroyer battalion can be permanently placed under Div Arty control, thereby making it a simple matter to switch from one secondary mission to the other.
- (2) Places all the cannon of the division under Div Arty control.
- (3) Utilizes the training, knowledge, and experience of the Bn Comdr and Staff.
- (4) Practically eliminates the probability of mis-employment, since the Co Comdrs and Bn Comdr remain in command and in control of their commands.
- (5) Allows the Bn Comdr to make effective plans for massing his guns in performance of his primary mission.
- (6) Enables the tank destroyer battalion to most effectively support the Inf in furtherance of the Div mission.
- (7) Enables the Bn Comdr to institute a policy of rotation of companies, thereby obtaining time for rest, rehabilitation, and maintenance.

*A. R. Brownfield*  
A. R. BROWNFIELD,  
Lt Col, FA,  
Commanding.

(SECRET)

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PW'S</u>
28 Jan 45	2
TOTAL	<u>2</u>

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
15 Jan 45	77
16 Jan 45	11
23 Jan 45	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	91

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45, incl.

NO.

—	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
—	Distinguished Service Cross
—	Silver Star (Posthumously)
<u>4</u>	Silver Star
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
—	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
<u>9</u>	Bronze Star Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
—	Air Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
—	Soldier's Medal
<u>12</u>	Purple Heart Award
<u>2</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
—	(2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

U.S. J. HUX,  
S-1.

[REDACTED]

5 - 9 February

RESTRICTED

On 5 February 1945, Company C was attached to 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, and occupied direct fire positions in vicinity of BETTENDORF (P909428). Company B was attached to 318th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, and moved into direct fire positions vicinity BEAUFORT (P960382). Company A was to support the fires of the 314th FA Bn, and occupied indirect fire positions in vicinity of EFFENDORF (P930396). On 7 February 1945, one platoon of Company A was withdrawn from indirect fire positions and attached to Btry A, 558th FA Bn. Mission for the unit was to deliver direct fire on enemy pillboxes.

9 - 12 February

On 9 February 1945, 80th Div Arty Comdr assumed coordinator of all fires of all cannon of Div. Accordingly, Company B, 811th TD Bn, fires were under control of 313th FA Bn with two platoons in indirect positions and one platoon in direct position. Company C, 811th TD Bn, fires under control of 905th FA Bn, with two platoons in indirect positions and one platoon in direct position. While in these and alternate positions, the companies placed both direct and indirect fire on enemy pillboxes positions. On 11 Feb 45, the latter Companies were again placed under control of the Infantry Regiments, with Company A attached to 317th Inf Regt, Company B attached to 319th Infantry Regiment, and Company C attached to 319th Infantry Regiment. This attachment continued throughout the month of February. Field Artillery Battalions continued to exercise fire control when companies were in indirect fire positions, with 314th FA Bn exercising fire control of Company A, 811th TD Bn.

12 - 19 February

On 12 February 1945, 3d Platoon, Company C, which was working in conjunction with 3d Bn, 319th Inf Regt crossed the OUR River in vicinity of WALLENDORF on mission of direct fire on enemy pillboxes. On 13 Feb 45, [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]

46

OUR River at vicinity of BILTINGEN. In addition, the remainder of Company C crossed OUR River and occupied direct fire positions in support of the 319th Inf Regt. On 16 Feb 45, Company A moved from indirect fire positions, crossed OUR River to vicinity BOLLENDORF (LO04) and occupied defensive positions. On 19 Feb 45, Bn CP moved from STEGEN to BETTENDORF (P9043) in order to be of more effective aid to firing companies.

19 - 28 February

From 19-23 Feb 45 the firing companies engaged enemy positions, pillboxes, and tanks from various positions in vicinity of CRUGHTEN (P9845), STOCKIGT (LO045), MORPERICH (P9448), and OBERSGEGEN (P9449). On 23 Feb 45, Company B placed direct fire on the towns of METTENDORF (P993508) which assisted in its capture. On 24 Feb 45, Company A occupied direct fire positions firing on enemy vehicles and personnel and also into the villages of STEFFESHOF (LO150) and BURG (LO152). Company A's CP moved to FREILINGEN (P9947). On same date, Company B CP moved to LAHR (P9650) and Company C's CP moved to GEIGLINGEN (9551). In addition, Bn CP crossed the OUR River and moved into CRUGHTEN (P9845). On 25 Feb 45, Hq Co (Rr) moved from STEGEN to BETTENDORF (P9042). Company A remained in direct fire positions with 1st Platoon moving to vicinity of BRIMINGEN (LO18533), and 3d Platoon moved to METTENDORF (P9951). Company C's 1st Platoon moved to OBERRADEN (P998567). 2d Platoon remained in direct fire position in support of 3d Bn of 319th Inf Regt. On 26 Feb 45, Rcn Company moved to METTENDORF (P9951). Company A's CP moved to HUTTERSCHIED (LO856), 1st Platoon moved to vicinity of BIRSCHDORF (LO858), 2d Platoon moved to MÜLBACH (LO45530), 3d Platoon moved to vicinity of HERMESDORF (LO856), Company B remained in LAHR (P9650), with exception of 3d Platoon which occupied position NW of METTENDORF (LO05505). Company C's CP moved to ALTSCHIED (LO458), 1st Platoon vicinity PHILIPPSWILLEN (LO362), 2d Platoon vicinity WEIDINGEN (LO358), 3d Platoon moved to ALTSCHIED (LO458). On 27 Feb 45

SECTION I

5-3 REPORT

From 0001 1 Feb 45 to 2400 28 Feb 45

1-3 February

At beginning of period (1 Feb 45), this Battalion was attached to the 11th Armored Division, VIII Corps, and was initially in Corps reserve. From 1 Feb to 3 Feb 45, the Battalion remained in the following assembly areas and conducted maintenance of all vehicles and equipment plus rehabilitation of personnel:

Bn CP, Rcn & C Cos - Located at HULDANGE (P7775)

Hq & A Cos - Located at MATTEBOLL (P7577)

B Co - Located at SPFLER (P8079)

3 - 5 February

Effective 3 February 1945, the Battalion was relieved of attachment to 11th Armored Division, VIII Corps, and was attached to 80th Infantry Division, XII Corps. At 0800 hours, 3 February 1945, the Battalion left assembly areas and made a road march to vicinity MERSCH, LUXEMBOURG. Upon arrival at Mersch, Companies were notified that they were to relieve the 802d Tank Destroyer Battalion on the line. In accordance therewith, Companies occupied the following positions by 1630 hours, 3 February 1945.

Bn CP & Hq Co - STEGEN (P8737)

Rcn Co - MEDERNACH (P9035)

A Co - EPPLDORF (P9339)

B Co - GILSDORF (P8841)

C Co - BEAUFORT (P9638)

( [REDACTED] )  
5 - 9 February

On 5 February 1945, Company C was attached to 319th Inf Regt, 30th Inf Div, and occupied direct fire positions in vicinity of BEITENDORF (P909428). Company B was attached to 318th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, and moved into direct fire positions vicinity BEATFORT (P960382). Company A was to support the fires of the 318th FA Bn, and occupied indirect fire positions in vicinity of EPFLENDORF (P930396). On 7 February 1945, one platoon of Company A was withdrawn from indirect fire positions and attached to Btry A, 558th FA Bn. Mission for the unit was to deliver direct fire on enemy pillboxes.

9 - 12 February

On 9 February 1945, 30th Div Arty Comdr assumed coordinator of all fires of all cannon of Div. Accordingly, Company B, 311th TD Bn, fires were under control of 318th FA Bn with two platoons in indirect positions and one platoon in direct position. Company C, 311th TD Bn, fires under control of 905th FA Bn, with two platoons in indirect positions and one platoon in direct position. While in these and alternate positions, the companies placed both direct and indirect fire on enemy pillboxes positions. On 11 Feb 45, the latter Companies were again placed under control of the Infantry Regiments, with Company A attached to 317th Inf Regt, Company B attached to 319th Infantry Regiment, and Company C attached to 319th Infantry Regiment. This attachment continued throughout the month of February. Field Artillery battalions continued to exercise fire control when companies were in indirect fire positions, with 314th FA Bn exercising fire control of Company A, 311th TD Bn.

12 - 19 February

On 12 February 1945, 3d Platoon, Company C, which was working in conjunction with 3d Bn, 319th Inf Regt crossed the OUR River in vicinity of HALLENDORF on mission of direct fire on enemy pillboxes. On 13 Feb 45, [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] 46

OUR River at vicinity of DILLINGEN. In addition, the remainder of Company C crossed OUR River and occupied direct fire positions in support of the 319th Inf Regt. On 16 Feb 45, Company A moved from indirect fire positions, crossed OUR River to vicinity BOLLENDORF (LOO4) and occupied defensive positions. On 19 Feb 45, Bn CP moved from STEGEN to BETTENDORF (P9043) in order to be of more effective aid to firing companies.

19 - 28 February

From 19-23 Feb 45 the firing companies engaged enemy positions, pillboxes, and tanks from various positions in vicinity of CRUCHTEN (P9845), STOCKIGT (LOO45), KORPERICH (P9448), and OBERSGEGEN (P9449). On 23 Feb 45, Company B placed direct fire on the towns of METTENDORF (P993508) which assisted in its capture. On 24 Feb 45, Company A occupied direct fire positions firing on enemy vehicles and personnel and also into the villages of STEFFESHOF (LO150) and BURG (LO152). Company A's CP moved to FREILINGEN (P9947). On same date, Company B CP moved to LAHR (P9650) and Company C's CP moved to GEICHLINGEN (9551). In addition, Bn CP crossed the OUR River and moved into CRUCHTEN (P9845). On 25 Feb 45, Hq Co (Rr) moved from STEGEN to BETTENDORF (P9042). Company A remained in direct fire positions with 1st Platoon moving to vicinity of BRUMINGEN (L 018533), and 3d Platoon moved to METTENDORF (P9951). Company C's 1st Platoon moved to OBERRADEN (P998567). 2d Platoon remained in direct fire position in support of 3d Bn of 319th Inf Regt. On 26 Feb 45, Rcn Company moved to METTENDORF (P9951). Company A's CP moved to HUTTERSCHLID (LO856), 1st Platoon moved to vicinity of BLESBORN (LO858), 2d Platoon moved to MULLBACK (LO45530), 3d Platoon moved to vicinity of HELLSDORF (LO850), Company B remained in LAHR (P9650), with exception of 3d Platoon which occupied position N. of METTENDORF (LOO5505). Company C's CP moved to ALTSCHIED (LO458), 1st Platoon vicinity PHILIPPSWEILER (LO362), 2d Platoon vicinity WEIDINGEN (LO358), 3d Platoon moved to ALTSCHIED (LO458). On 27 Feb 45 47



Hq Co moved to METTENSDORF (P9951). Bn Co moved to BIERSDORF (L0858). Company A's 2d Platoon moved to vicinity of WISSMANNSDORF (L0755). Company B's 3d Platoon returned to Company control and moved to LAHR (P9850). On 28 Feb 45 Bn CP moved to METTENSDORF (P9951). Company A remained in direct fire positions with Co CP moving to BIERSDORF (L0858). Company C's CP and all three platoons in vicinity of WEIDINGEN (L0257).

During the month, Reconnaissance Company was busily engaged on reconnaissance missions, locating and occupying OPs, and reporting valuable information concerning the enemy. Reconnaissance for routes, stream crossing and CP's were primary mission. In addition, enemy minefields, installations, and location of personnel were reported.

Hq Co continued its role of administration and supply during the period. Results of the Battalion's operations against the enemy are as follows:

Enemy Tanks Destroyed - 4	Enemy MG Nests - 2	Rocket Sights - 1
Enemy Half-Tracks - 2	Enemy AT Guns - 7	PW's Captured - 85
Enemy SP guns - 8	Enemy Pillboxes - 12	

**SECTION II**

**S-2 Report**

Period 1-28 February 1945

**Maps:** Germany - 1/25,000, GSGS No. 4414  
Sheets Number 5903, 5904, 5905, 6003, 6004, 6005, 6103, 6104, 6105.  
Germany - 1/50,000, GSGS Number 4507.  
Sheets Number 107, 122, 137, 22, 23.  
Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS Number 4416.  
Sheets Number S-1, T-1, U-1.

**1 - 5 February 1945**

After the action of January in the Bastogne-St. Vith area the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 11th Arm Div, which was in reserve at the time, and ordered to move to vicinity of STEGEN, Luxembourg (P875378) on 2 February 1945. Here the unit was attached to the 80th Inf Div whose sector was generally from BOTH, Germany, (P913483) on the OUR River, south to BOLLENDORF, Germany, (L0140) on the SAUER River.

Investigation disclosed that the enemy was holding a line following east bank of the OUR and SAUER Rivers with mines, booby traps, anti-tank obstacles and pillboxes manned by the 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th Companies, 915th Regt, 352d VG Div, and 2d Bn of 423d Regt, 212th VG Div. Estimated strength of this holding force was 665 men.

Thirty-eight pillboxes known to be occupied on our front were reported by the 80th Div. A plan of attack was worked out for A and B Companies to fire direct on pillboxes from west bank of the River. Supporting fire by artillery was arranged for the 905th FA Bn with 155mm Howitzers furnishing the covering fire. The plan was for the tank destroyers to fire approximately 10 rounds then move back. This firing was hampered by rain and fog, but in spite of the poor visibility Company A scored four direct hits with four rounds drawing no reaction from the enemy.

[REDACTED]

It was learned from two deserters from the 7th Co, 915th Regt that their company occupied nine bunkers with MCO, and seven men in each.

Enemy mines were generally used all along the River defenses with widely dispersed super-sensitive Regel mines between OUR River and bunker line at Gentingen. In many cases wires were attached to full igniters extending from mine to mine, connected to cause simultaneous explosion.

6-10 February 1945

The first appearance of enemy tanks was made on 6 February in the vicinity of AMHELDINGEN entering the town from the NE. The firing Companies continued their mission of direct firing on pillboxes and installations along the line.

On 7 February the 319th Inf Regt, 80th U. S. Div had two and one-half companies across River. Here they received heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire on the crossing site. The enemy made extensive use of Nebelwefer fire. At 1615 hours the ponton bridge was knocked out by artillery. Heavy shelling with mortars and artillery was received by 80th U. S. Div Engineers while trying to rebuild the bridge.

Company A, 811th TD Bn, was given mission to furnish four destroyers to work in pairs with a direct laying FA Bn. Heavy enemy activity reported east of BETTEL. Apparently reinforcement were brought up by the enemy as they became aware of a determined U. S. thrust on this sector. On 8 February Company C destroyed one enemy rocket position at P983453 and a pillbox located at P945455.

Continued pillbox firing was accomplished by all Companies throughout the initial thrusts by 80th Inf Div to secure a bridgehead. 1st and 2d Companies, 1130th VG Regt identified at P990433, with Bn CP at P9944.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reconnaissance Company maintained OP's during the month, reporting movements of the enemy and in many cases acting as FA forward observers.

On 10 February 15 men surrendered from pillbox P949445, after firing by Company A, 811th TD Bn.

The enemy continued his defense by using artillery, mortar (81mm and 120mm) and Nebelwefer fire. There was a noticeable lessening of machine gun fire, mainly on the crossing sites.

11 - 15 February 1945

On 11 February the enemy attempted to counter-attack about 1120 hours in vicinity P982446, but was dispersed by our artillery fire. Our observers reported much movement by foot troops and horse-drawn vehicles toward our lines through HOMERDINGEN, CRUCHTEN, LAHR and OBERSGEGEN. Another counter-attack attempted to form on the morning of 12 February but this was also dispersed with no ground lost by our troops.

The enemy brought up a few tanks and SP guns to bring direct fire on our bridgehead and continued heavy resistance was encountered by our troops from pillboxes and dug-in positions.

Our reconnaissance observed columns of foot troops, horse-drawn vehicles, mortar vehicles, armored cars, and tanks moving south and southeast in the vicinity of LAHR P9650, MEITENDORF P9950, HOMERDINGEN P9846, and FREILINGEN P992477. Several small counter-attacks were launched vicinity WALLENDORF and South CRUCHTEN on 15 February. Enemy continued to occupy defensive positions on east-west ridge south of CRUCHTEN.

16 - 20 February 1945

South and east of BIESDORF and in vicinity of ROHRBACH LOO44 which proved to be the left flank of 352d VG Div, whose CP was in ROHRBACH, became a center

[REDACTED] 51

[REDACTED]

of activity as continued reports of both men and vehicles in that sector, were made. It was near this location that Lt B. C. Sawyer of Company A narrowly escaped capture and reported killing or wounding six of the enemy before his escape after darkness.

PW's continue to report lack of gasoline for their tanks and SP guns. In many cases the enemy was found using such guns as stationary artillery, and in others the vehicles were reported to be immobilized and parked in buildings.

On 18 February the enemy front lines on the 80th Div sector were generally NIEDERSGGEM, KEMNIG, FRAILINGEN and NUSBAUM. The enemy began using combat teams at this time composed of remnants from various outfits, whose mission was to defend to the last man. As a result of this our forces met stiffened resistance on all sections. The new HETZER type SP AT Guns were first encountered in this area on or about 19 February. The 610th AT Bn which previously was identified on the 5th Div sector moved over to 318th Regt, 80th Inf Div front.

Our firing Companies, A, B, and C continued their missions attached to the three Inf Regts of 80th Div, and pushed the attack to north and east. By 20 February the enemy was defending along a line north of ROTH, OBERSGGEM, LAMR, GEBELINGEN, METTENDORF to DETTINGEN.

21 - 24 February 1945

Enemy stubbornly resisted with fire from S/A, tanks, SP and AT guns. 16 tanks, 3 SP guns, 4 towed guns (3 77mm and 1 88mm) were knocked out 21 February 1945. Combat team SCHWIFTZ, remnants of 276th VG Div, and Combat Team MOERING, elements of 276th VG Div were identified on this sector. Only isolated groups in towns were remaining west of Prun River.

25 - 28 February 1945

By 26 February 1945 the enemy appeared to be disorganized by our advance and was making efforts to withdraw to east of KYLL River to establish a defensive line there. The enemy front lines were from the northern boundary of 80th Div in vicinity of MAVEL on the Prum River to HAMM then east to LIESSEM, (L101591), at the end of the month. The 1st Bn, 694th VGR, 340th VG Div, and the 4th Co, VOLKSSTURM RIFEL were identified on this line. The enemy continued to make use of mines, AT ditches, roadblocks, abbatis, and dug-in positions to delay the advance through the Westwall.

KNOWN ENEMY EQUIPMENT DESTROYED  
By 811th TD Bn Month of February

	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tanks, Mk V or VI			2	2	4
Half-Tracks		2			2
SP Guns			7	1	8
MG Nests			1	1	2
AT Guns			1	6	7
Fillboxes		2	2	8	12
Rocket Sites				1	1
Prisoners	5	31	1	48	85

Killed and Wounded (estimated) - 150

( [REDACTED] )

[REDACTED]

SECTION III

S-4 REPORT

1 - 28 February 1945

During the month of February all classes of supplies except Class III were drawn from the 80th Inf Div.

Supply lines were generally short, but road conditions were bad and considerable time was spent traversing said roads.

Following is a breakdown by classes of supply:

Class I

Class I supplies were easily accessible. Considerable amounts of emergency "K" rations were consumed by the firing companies during the initial River crossing. All companies received rations every day. A ration vehicle should be authorized for a TD Bn.

Class II

Class II supplies were plentiful.

Class III

All Class III supplies were drawn from Army and Corps dumps. This necessitated long hauls over very bad roads. Gas and oil was not drawn from the Div because of their inability to maintain adequate reserves.

Class IV

All Class IV supplies were generally available.

Class V

During this period considerable Class V supplies were expended. ASP's were centrally located. Considerable CPT-105 fuzes were expended.

Vehicular Losses:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M-20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armd, Light, M-8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm, M-18	0	0	0	3	0	3
Vehicle, Tk Recovery, M-32	0	0	1	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M-10, Truck 1/4 Ton, 4x4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/o W/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	3	0	0

Vehicular Replacements:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M-20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armd, Light, M-8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm, M-18	0	0	0	0	3	0
Vehicle, Tk Recovery, M-32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M-10	2	0	0	2	3	7
Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	3	3	3	0	2	11
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Carrier, Cargo, M-29	1	0	0	0	0	1
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4 w/o W/12 Volt System	1	0	0	0	0	1
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	3	3	2	8	24

Ammunition Expended:

76mm, HE	- 7,455
76mm, APC	- 210
Cal. 50 MG	- 5,122
Cal. 30 MG	- 0
Cal. 30 Rifle	- 500
Cal. 30 Carbine	- 1,000
Cal. 45 Ball	- 100
37mm, HE	- 45
37mm, APC	- 0
37mm, Canister	- 0
81mm, Mortar, HE	- 0



Ammunition Expended Cont'd:

Rockets, AT, M6A3 - 4  
Grenade, AT - 0  
Mine, AT, HE, M1A1 - 0  
Grenade, Hand, Frag - 0

**SECRET**

**S-1 REPORT**

**SECTION IV**

**1 - 28 February 1945**

**TABLE NUMBER 1.**

**BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY**  
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to and including 28 February 1945 for the period 1 - 28 February 1945.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>NIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
7 Feb	1*					1
8 Feb	2*					2
***						
10 Feb	1		3	1		5
***						
13 Feb			1			1
***						
15 Feb	1*					1
***						
18 Feb	1					1
***						
20 Feb			1			1
21 Feb			1			1
***						
23 Feb			2			2
***						
25 Feb	3*)					4
	1)					
			—	—		—
TOTAL	11		8	1		19

\*Previously reported MIA, information received showing men KIA.

**TABLE NUMBER 2.**

**PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED**

<u>Date</u>	<u>PW's</u>
18 Feb	21
20 Feb	39
23 Feb	25
TOTAL	85

**RECEIVED** 57

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>
11 Feb	2
14 Feb	8
18 Feb	2
19 Feb	19
20 Feb	1
23 Feb	1
25 Feb	<u>16</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45, incl.

No.

—	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
—	Distinguished Service Cross
—	Silver Star (Posthumously)
<u>1</u>	Silver Star
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
<u>9</u>	Bronze Star Medal
—	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
—	Air Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
—	Soldier's Medal
<u>6</u>	Purple Heart Award
<u>1</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
—	(2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

HEADQUARTERS  
811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

6 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 March 1945.

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

THRU : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1 - 31 March 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Clay J. Hux*  
CLAY J. HUX,  
WOJG, USA,  
Adjutant.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**RESTRICTED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 3409 1945

20 MAR 1945

14152

2040

SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

From 0001 1 Mar 45 to 2400 31 Mar 45

Map Scale: 1/100,000

Sheets Number: R-2, R-3, S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, T1 - T2 - T3 - T-4, U1, U2 and U3.

1-5 Mar 45

At the beginning of period, the Battalion was attached to 80th Inf Div with one letter Company attached to each Infantry Regiment. Units were located as follows:

Bn CP - METTENDORF (P9950)  
Rcn Co - BIEERSDORF (LO858)  
Co A - OBERWEILER (LO761)  
Co B - See below  
Co C - WEIDINGEN (LO358)

On 1 March 1945 Company B plus one Reconnaissance platoon (with CT 318/80th Inf Div) moved from 80th Inf Div sector and occupied indirect fire positions in vicinity of IDSHEDM (L165425) located in 76th Inf Div sector. On 3 March 1945 they were relieved of this mission with 76th Inf Div. Company B plus Rcn platoon returned to 80th Inf Div zone with Company B occupying positions at (L115576). Rcn platoon reverted back to Company control. On 3 March 1945 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion (less Co B) was relieved from attachment 80th Inf Div and attached 4th Armd Div. Hq, Rcn and C (less 1 platoon) Companies attached CCR, 4th Armd Div, and Company A attached CCA, 4th Armd Div. One platoon, Company C, attached 25th Cavalry Squadron. The Battalion, less Company B and 1 platoon Company C, moved to assembly area 1/2 mile west of RITTERSDORF (L1156) on 4 March 1945 in anticipation of movement with 4th Armd Div; however, at 04 2200 March 1945 the Battalion (less Co B and 1 platoon Co C) relieved of attachment to 4th Armd Div and reattached to 80th Inf Div. One platoon Company C remained

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

attached 25th Cavalry Squadron. During this five day period, the following towns in the Battalion's zone of advance were cleared of the enemy: OBERWEILER (L0761), EHLENZ (L0960), SCHLEID (L1163), MALBERG and BEIDENBACH.

5-11 March 1945

The 5th of March 1945 finds the Battalion in the following positions preparing to continue the attack east of KYLL RIVER in vicinity BITBURG (L1353):

Bn CP, Hq Co - RITTERSDORF (L1156)  
Rcn Co - BIERSDORF (L0858)  
Co A - BITBURG (L1353)  
Co B - (L115585)  
Co C - BICKENDORF (L1160)

On 7 March 1945 Company C moved with 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, to 76th Inf Div sector. Company occupied position in vicinity IDENHEIM (L1645). On 9 March 1945 the Company was relieved from this assignment and returned to 80th Inf Div sector and occupied positions vicinity BICKENDORF (L115603). On 10 March 1945 the Battalion (less 2d platoon, Co C, which was still attached 25th Cavalry Squadron, 4th Armd Div) relieved from attachment 80th Inf Div and attached to 89th Inf Div. On 11 March 1945, the Battalion (less Hq Rear and 2d platoon, Co C) moved from 80th Inf Div sector to 89th Inf Div zone. Bn CP, Rcn and B Companies were located at GINDORF (L2257), Company C in OBERKAIL (L2460) and Co A in ONSFELD. In addition, the 2d platoon, Company C, which had been working with 25th Cavalry Squadron, 4th Armd Div, was relieved of this attachment and returned to Company control. Platoon moved to OBERKAIL (L2460). At 11 1445 March 1945 the Battalion was relieved of attachment 89th Inf Div, XII Corps, and attached to 80th Inf Div, XI Corps. Plans were made during the night to move to XX Corps sector in vicinity REMLICH, LUXEMBOURG. From 5-12 March 1945, the Battalion was not in continuous contact with the enemy. At such times, the Battalion conducted maintenance of all vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel.

[REDACTED]

12-15 March 1945

On the morning of 12 March 1945, the Battalion made a road march from GINDORF (L2257) to vicinity REMICH, LUXEMBOURG, which was in the zone of 80th Inf Div, XX Corps. Upon arrival there, Hq, Rcn and B Companies occupied billets in ELLANGE (P9603), and Companies A and C in WELFRANGE (P9505). On 13 March 1945 the 80th Inf Div's SOP normal attachment of TD's to the infantry went into effect with Company A attached 317th Inf Regt; Company B attached 318th Inf Regt and Company C attached 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div. On 13 March 1945 Bn CP and Rcn Company moved from ELLANGE, LUXEMBOURG, to SAARBURG (L1412), GERMANY; Company A to (L2012); Company B to BEURIG (L1512); Company C to (L2011). On 14 March 1945 Hq Co (Rr) moved to BEURIG (L1512); Companies A, B, and C to (L2011), (L2512) and (L2012), respectively. On 15 March 1945 Company A fired on enemy tanks and pillboxes in vicinity (L2215).

15-18 March 1945

At 15 2130 March 1945 Rcn Company was attached 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div. Rcn was conducted along the Regiment's front during the remainder of the period. Companies A, B, and C continued their advance in Division zone and on the 18th of March 1945 had reached the following points:

Company A - OBERTHAL (L5302); Company B - WEISKIRCHEN (L3407); Company C - THELEY (L4800). From 12 to 18 March 1945, the Battalion assisted in clearing the enemy from the following towns in its zone of advance: GREIMERATH (L2407), SCHEIDEN (L2705), BERGEN (L2404), WALDHOLZBACH (L2906), HAUSVACH (L2401), BRITTEN (L2303), LOSHEIM (L2801), WAHLEN (Q3099), MITLOSHEIM (L3004), RAPFWEILER (L3205), ZWALBACH (L3106), MICHELBAACH (Q3496), NUNKIRCHEN (Q3598), LOCKWEILER (L4103), KRETTNICH (L4203).

[REDACTED]

19-25 March 1945

First five days of this period consisted almost in its entirety of sweeping advances against the enemy. Only token resistance was encountered by our units. Chief obstacles to our progress consisted mainly of roadblocks and some sniper fire. Battalion out of contact with enemy during last two days of period. On the 21st of March 1945 Reconnaissance Company was released from attachment 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div, and returned to Battalion control. The Company was then assigned the following mission:

- a. Maintain contact with friendly armor in Division zone.
- b. Report front line dispositions won troops, and
- c. Investigate and report any hostile armor or AT.

On 22 March 1945 the latter Companies were released from attachment Infantry Regt and returned to Battalion control in vicinity FREIDELSHHEIM, GERMANY. This was done in preparation for an expected order to move north and regroup. On 24 March 1945 the Battalion moved from FREIDELSHHEIM (R3594) to WALDGREHWEILER (MOOL8) and GANGLOFF (L9718), where the Battalion went into Corps reserve. The 25th of March 1945 was spent on rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

26-31 March 1945

On 26 March 1945 the Battalion was alerted for movement further north in order to be nearer the crossing site on the RHINE RIVER. Accordingly, on 27 March 1945 the Battalion (Less Hq Rr) moved from Waldgrehweiler (MOOL8) and GANGLOFF (L9718) to the following locations:

Bn CP and Rcn Co - GAU ALGESHEIM (M2051); Company A - NEIDER-SAUHEIM (M3042); Company B - NDR INGELHEIM (M2453); Company C - Preparing to cross RHINE RIVER in vicinity MAINZ.

[REDACTED]



During this period, swift progress was made against the enemy, with no organized enemy front lines encountered. By 30 March 1945 the entire Battalion had crossed the RHINE RIVER. From the 26th to 31st March 1945 Battalion CP moved a total of one hundred seventy-eight (178) miles. At close of period (31 2400 Mar 45), units were located as follows:

Bn CP, Med Det and Rcn Co - NEUKIRCHEN (H1353); Hq Co (Rr) - RIEBELSDORF (H1155); Company A - ZIEGENHAIN (H0558); Company B - HOMBERG (H1772), and Company C at (H2260). The following enemy equipment and personnel were destroyed during the month of March 1945:

Tanks - - - - -	26	20mm Flak Guns - - - - -	4
Half Tracks - - - - -	3	2 1/2 Ton Trucks - - - - -	2
Scout-Cars - - - - -	1	Horses - - - - -	4
SP Guns - - - - -	2	Wagons - - - - -	3
Mortars - - - - -	1	Jeeps - - - - -	1
AT Guns - - - - -	4	PW's Captured - - - - -	552
Arty Pieces - - - - -	1	Approx Enemy Killed - - -	179
Pillboxes - - - - -	5	Approx Enemy Wounded - - -	265

*Elaine C. Taylor*  
ELAINE C. TAYLOR,  
Major, FA (ID),  
S-3.

SECTION II

S-2 REPORT

From 0001 1 Mar 45 to 2400 31 Mar 45

Maps; Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS 4416.

Sheets Number: R-2, R-3, R-4, S1, S2, S3, S4, T1, T2, T3, T4, U1, U2 and U3.

Eastern France - 1/50,000, GSGS 4471.

Sheets Number: XXXIV, 10, 11; XXXV, 10, 11; XXXVI, 10, 11, XXXVII, 10, 11, XXXVIII, 10, 11.  
GSGS 4505, Sheets Number 22, 41, 42, 61, 102, 103, 131, 132, 133, 161, 162, 163 and 192.

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the 80th Inf Div continued the attack through the German West Wall defenses. The enemy, according to reports, was maintaining a line on the east bank of the NIMS River. Light resistance was offered with small arms in HEILLENBACH (L0863), but the town was cleared with 63 PW's taken.

Large concentrations of heavy tanks and trucks were reported to be within a 2 mile radius at (L1973). This was believed to be a new division arriving, but an attack from them never materialized due to our air activity and swift ground advance by U. S. 4th Armd Div.

By 5 March the enemy line followed along the KYLL River. Units contacted were elements of 9th VG Div, 79th VG Div, 246th VG Div, and a March Battalion of 2d Pz Div. Four enemy tanks appeared north of MEISBURG (L2568) and nine Tiger Tanks of the 506th Tk Bn were reported at (L154724).

5-11 March 1945

Small agroups of enemy infantry attempted to delay advance of forward elements in XII Corps sector. Only light and scattered resistance was encountered consisting of small arms and machine gun fire. On 5 March the 2d platoon of Company C, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was attached to 25th Cavalry, 4th Armd Div, and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

joined them at 0845 hours. They proceeded to KYLLBURGWELLER. They were relieved and reverted to Battalion control on 11 March 1945.

On 10 March the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment to 80th Inf Div and attached to 89th Inf Div.

On 11 March forward CP moved to GINDORF, GERMANY (L219575), and closed at 1035 hours. 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment to 89th Inf Div and attached to XX Corps.

12-17 March 1945

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion moved from GINDORF, GERMANY, to ELLANGE, LUXEMBOURG, (P9603) on 12 March 1945. Here the Battalion was reattached to 80th Inf Div, whose sector covered approximately 4,000 yards from (L1615) to south of SAARBURG, GERMANY, (L1511), extending east about 6,000 yards where it extended south to (L0025), the 26th Inf Div's boundary. The 94th Inf Div was located on the left flank.

Enemy units known to be on the 80th Inf Div's sector front were: (1) 136th Mtn Inf Regt, 137th Mtn Inf Regt, 111th Mtn Arty Regt, 67th Mtn Rcn Bn, 55th Mtn AT Bn, 67th Mtn Engr Bn, and 67th Mtn Sig Bn, all units of 2d Mtn Div. (2) 6th SS Mtn Div, composed of 11th SS Mtn Gren Regt "REINHARDT HEYDRICH", 12th SS Mtn Gren Regt "MICHAEL GAISMAR", 6th SS Mtn Arty Regt, 6th SS Mtn Rcn Bn, 506th SS Pz Gren Bn (atchd), 6th SS Mtn Engr Bn, and 6th SS Mtn Sig Bn.

On 13 March 1945 Bn Fwd CP moved from ELLANGE (P9603), LUXEMBOURG, to SAARBURG, (U1415) GERMANY. The enemy defended his positions stubbornly with assault guns, small arms fire, artillery, roadblocks, booby traps, and small scale counter attacks. Situation became fluid as the enemy defenses were penetrated. Forward CP located at FRIEDELSTADT, GERMANY (R3594).

35

[REDACTED]

17-20 March 1945

[REDACTED]

The enemy at this time had no established front lines to our knowledge, and the situation was fluid. Miscellaneous units were contacted by 80th Inf Div, mostly from 416th Inf Div, 2d Mtn Div, and 17th SS Pz Gren Div.

On 18 March scattered and indifferent resistance was met as our troops advanced rapidly to the east. Many towns were cleared in the Division zone. Use of roadblocks, mines and other defensive works seemed to decrease during this advance. Only small concentrations of artillery fire were received in towns, ALSWEILER (Q5197), NIEPEL (Q4098), and NIEDERKIRCHEN (Q6596).

The rapid advance met only a fleeing enemy. KLASSELAUTERN (R0293), all towns to the west and for 13 kilometers east in our zone was cleared of enemy by 20 March 1945. Our leading companies with 80th Inf Div reached HOCHSPEYER (L1193) and EAKENBACH.

20-26 March 1945

Contact with the enemy was lost on 21 March, but on 22 March approximately 500 PW's were taken by the Division. Increased enemy air activity was encountered during this period with columns south and west of MAXDORF (R4098) strafed and bombed during the hours of darkness. On 25 March contact with the enemy was again lost by our troops.

26-31 March 1945

Enemy front lines were along the east bank of the RHINE River on the 26th of March. Some of the islands in the River were also occupied. The town of MAINZ (M3754) received heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire during the early part of this period.

Capabilities of the enemy at this time were to defend along north bank of RHINE and MAIN Rivers with elements of the 198th VG Div and various battle groups comprised of administrative and VOLKSTURM. The resistance [REDACTED] of the

MAIN River was at first stubborn, consisting of small arms, automatic weapons, and 20mm AA fire, however, as the attack continued the resistance became disorganized and ineffectual as large numbers of enemy surrendered in groups.

The River MAIN was crossed during the period. In most cases our forward elements were welcomed by civilian population who stated that they had been eagerly looking forward to Allied occupation.

At the end of the month the situation still remained fluid. Indications were, however, that the enemy would establish a MLR on the high ground northeast of the FULDA River between (H220905) GUXHAGEN and (H440550) KATHUS. The 326th VG Div together with 166th Div, 356th Inf Div, 1066th Arty Regt, and 5th Para Div will be used to man this line.

Our advance was slowed by blown bridges and other defensive works while fierce resistance from small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and direct fire weapons met our forces north of EDER River.

The Battalion forward CP was located at NEUKIRCHEN (H1353) at the close of the period.

**KNOWN ENEMY EQUIPMENT**  
Destroyed by 811th TD Bn  
Month of March

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tanks, Mk V or VI or <u>IV</u>			4	1	21	26
Half-Tracks					3	3
Arm'd Cars					1	1
Scout Cars				1	1	2
SP Guns					4	4
Horses			1		2	3
Wagons			1			1
Jeeps					2	2
2 1/2 Ton Trucks						

<u>Enemy Positions</u>	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mortar Positions					1	1
AT Guns					4	4
Artillery Positions					1	1
pillboxes			2		3	5
20mm Flak Guns					4	4
 <u>Enemy Personnel</u>						
<u>Losses</u>						
Prisoners	37	69	52	25	369	552
Killed (Approx)			68	73	38	179
Wounded (Approx)			97	98	70	265

*Melvin J. Bryson*  
 MELVIN J. BRYSON,  
 Captain, FA (TD)  
 S-2.

SECTION III

S-4 REPORT

1-31 March 1945

1. The requirements of this organization were generally good for all classes of supply.

Class I

Modified "B" ration was available for approximately the first half of the month. The latter two weeks consisted of "10 in 1", and "C" rations.

Class II

Good.

Class III

The latter part of the month was one of continuous movement. In spite of the high requirements this Battalion never suffered seriously from lack of fuel and lubrications.

Class IV

Good.

Class V

Good.

2. The one serious handicap has been the almost non-existent ordnance support, especially with armored vehicles. The supporting units have been as far as 65 miles in rear of our rear most elements. As a result our maintenance continuously fell behind.

3. Road conditions have been excellent.

4. Vehicular Losses:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	1	0	1
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun M18	0	0	1	3	0	4
Vehicle, Tank Recovery M32	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Vehicular Losses, cont'd)

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton 4x4	0	0	0	2	0	2
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/o						
w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

5. Vehicular Replacements:

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	1	0	1
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun, M18	0	0	0	2	0	2
Vehicle Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	1	1
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	0	0	0	2	0	2
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel						
Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrier, Cargo, M29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/c						
w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

6. Ammunition Expended:

76mm, HE	-	332	37mm, APC	-	35
76mm, APC	-	66	37mm, Canister	-	7
Cal .50 MG	-	8,980	81mm, Mortar, HE	-	0
Cal .30 MG	-	9,775	Rocket, AT, M6A3	-	26
Cal .30 Rifle Ball	-	1,994	Grenade, AT	-	0
Cal .30 Rifle AP	-	1,620	Mine, AT, HE, M1A1	-	54
Cal .30 Carbine	-	3,050	Grenade, Hand, Frag	-	20
Cal .45 Ball	-	900	Grenade, Inc	-	2
37mm, HE	-	83	Grenade, WP, M15	-	2

*Julius Troyer*  
**JULIUS TROYER,**  
 Captain, FA (TD),  
 S-4



# SECRET

## S-1 REPORT

### SECTION IV

1 - 31 March 1945

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY  
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to  
and including 31 March 1945 for the period  
1 - 31 March 1945.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
***						
6 Mar 45			3			3
***						
11 Mar 45			3	3		6
12 Mar 45	1					1
13 Mar 45	1		1			2
14 Mar 45	1			1		2
15 Mar 45	1		2			3
16 Mar 45			5			5
***						
18 Mar 45					1	1
***						

TABLE NUMBER 2.

### REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED (Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>
2 Mar 45	2
3 Mar 45	24
5 Mar 45	2
15 Mar 45	1
20 Mar 45	5
28 Mar 45	<u>11</u>
Total	45

RESTRICTED

TABLE NUMBER 3.

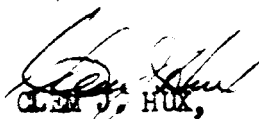
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45, incl.

No.

—	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
—	Distinguished Service Cross
<u>1</u>	Silver Star (Posthumously)
<u>15</u>	Silver Star
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
<u>1</u>	Bronze Star (Posthumously)
<u>22</u>	Bronze Star
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
—	Air Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
—	Soldier's Medal
<u>15</u>	Purple Heart Award
<u>3</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
—	(2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

On 31 March 1945 an enemy prison camp containing Allied personnel was liberated by the swift advance of the 6th Armored Div, and thirteen non-commissioned officers of this organization, who had been missing in action as a result of the battle of the Bulge in December 1944 were liberated. Commanding Officer, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, visited these men and verified their presence, and as a result of this personal visit the records of personnel listed as missing in action have been reduced by thirteen.

  
CLEM J. HUX,  
WOJG, USA,  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS  
EIGHTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 803, U. S. ARMY

6 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 30 April 1945.

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

FROM : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the Eighth Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1-30 April 45.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Clem Hux*  
CLEM. HUX,  
2d Lt, FA (TD),  
Adjutant.

15-  
32

14 JUL 1945

14

SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

From 01 0001 Apr 45 to 30 2400 Apr 45

During the month of April, the 811th TD Bn remained attached to the 60th Inf Div with one firing company attached to each infantry regiment. Only exception was from 21 April to 27 April 45, at which time Companies A and C were attached to 3d Cav Gp.

1-5 April 1945

From the 1-5 April 1945 the Battalion encountered stiff opposition in its coordinated attack with the 60th Inf Div against the Div objective of KASSEL (C2304). This resistance consisted of tanks supported by infantry. It was during this period (1 Apr 45) that Company B, 811th TD Bn, lost six (6) L-18's. Though this was a terrific blow to the Battalion, other units of the Battalion were called upon and succeeded in destroying the enemy tanks. On 1 April 45 units were located as follows: Bn CP and Rcn Co at HOLZHAUSEN (H185710); Hq & Hq Co at RIEBELSDORF (H1154); Company A - ZEIGERHAIN (H0559); Company B in CBR MOLLNICH (H105825); Company C - M LERSHAUSEN (H105810). At the end of this five day period (5 Apr 45) the Div objective of KASSEL (C2304) had been taken and Companies were in the following places: Bn CP - M LERSHAUSEN (H105876); Hq & Hq Co - HOLZHAUSEN (H185710); Rcn Co - M LERSHAUSEN (H070875); Company A - KASSEL (C2304); Company B - KASSEL (C2304); Company C - RIEBELSDORF (H1154).

After the loss of the L-18's on 1 April 45, Company B, 803d TD Bn, was attached to the Battalion on 5 April 45. However, this Company was relieved of this attachment on 8 April 45 without having been committed.

6-10 April 45

On 6 April 45 the Battalion received a warning order of the relief of the 60th Inf Div and attached troops, and of a proposed movement to the southeast.

Accordingly, on 4 April 45 the Battalion advanced southeastward with the 80th Inf Div (J455005) and units of the 80th Inf Div in positions: Bn CP, Hq & Hq Co (Rr) in GULIA (J455005); Ren Co - WEILAR (J455008); Co A - ERFURT (J455011); Co B - ARCHA (J455010) and Co C at LAGDALA (J455013). During this period, the firing companies continued their advance with CP's of the 80th Inf Div without determined opposition. At the close of the period units of the Battalion had reached the approaches to the city of ERFURT (J455011) where the enemy had set up defenses and was offering fanatical resistance. The enemy sought to defend key terrain features; chiefly towns that were favorably located.

#### 11-18 April 45

The Battalion continued its advance southeastward with Bn CP at LAGDALA (J455005), Hq & Hq Co (Rr) in GULIA (J455005), Ren Co - WEILAR (J455008); Co A - ERFURT (J455011); Co B - ARCHA (J455010) and Co C at LAGDALA (J455013). This period was characterized by the capture of a large number of prisoners and by 18 April 45, the units of the Battalion had reached the outskirts of GERMANY. Upon reaching the vicinity of GERMANY the 80th Inf Div and attached troops were relieved in that zone and prepared to move south. On 18 April 45 the firing companies were relieved of attachment to the infantry regiments and reverted to Battalion control. The Battalion then moved to an assembly area with Bn CP at (K003002), Hq & Hq Co (K003005), Ren Co (K003004), Co A (J998078), Co B (K029018), and Co C (J990035) as a preparation for movement to new Div boundaries.

#### 19-21 April 45

On 19 April 45, the Battalion moved a distance of one hundred and fifty miles (150) to vicinity of SCHWESDORF (0344013) where the Battalion went into bivouac. The 20th and 21st April 45 was spent on maintenance of vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel.

24-26 April 45

On 24 April 45, the 80th Inf Div was again called into action. The Battalion remained in bivouac area for vicinity SICKHART (U279109). From 24 April 45 until 27 April 45, at which time the Battalion reverted to its control, with Co A at FELDHAUSEN (U279109) and Co C in FELDHAUSEN (U279109). From 24-26 April 45, the Bn (less Co A & C) was in maintenance of vehicles, rehabilitation of personnel and a freshening up for new replacements. On 26 April 45 the Battalion (-) moved to KORN (U279109) where they remained until 27 April.

27-30 April 45

On 27 April 45 the 80th Inf Div was again called into action. At 27 April 45 (1100) the Bn (-) moved from KORN (U279109) with Bn CP and Hq & Hq Co and Co A in WILAU (U279109) and Recon Co in DASSAU (U279109). On 28 April 45 the normal SOP of attachments went into effect with Co A attached 317th Inf Regt; Co B attached 318th Inf Regt and Co C attached 319th Inf Regt. In addition, Recon Co, 1100 TD Bn, was attached to 319th Inf Regt, 80th Inf Div. On 28 April 45, the Battalion crossed the DANUBE RIVER in its advance southward, with Bn CP closing in a REGENSBURG (U202528). Recon Co continued reconnaissance along the Div's zone of advance and at close of period, units of the Battalion were in the following locations: Bn CP - MIRSCHEN (U279109); Hq & Hq Co - REGENSBURG (U202528); Recon Co - ROSAU (U279109); Co A - KIRCHLEHLEN (U279109); Co B - WEICHSELHOFEN; Co C - GRIESSENHACH (U279109). The Battalion continued to work in conjunction with the 80th Inf Div and was passing through elements of the 80th Inf Div and following the attack of the 13th Arm Div, prepared to mop up enemy resistance encountered. Units of the Battalion had reached the north bank of the ISAR RIVER.

~~SECRET~~

During the month of April the following equipment was destroyed:

Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1
Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	3	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1
Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	5	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	2
Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	4	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1
Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	6	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1
Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1
Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1	Anti-Aircraft Guns - - - - -	1

Prisoners captured - One thousand two hundred and one (1,201)

Estimated number killed - Two hundred ninety eight (298)

Estimated number wounded - One hundred eight (108)

Total of six hundred and fifty (650) miles during April.

*William C. Taylor*  
WILLIAM C. TAYLOR,  
Major, FA (CD),  
S-3.

~~SECRET~~

SECTION II

S-2 REPORT

From 0001 1 Apr 45 to 2400 30 Apr 45

MAPS: Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS 1416.

Sheets Number: R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8,  
T4, T5, T6, T7, U5, U6, V7, V8, W6, W7, & W8.

Germany - 1/25,000, GSGS 1414, 4821, 4822, 4823, 4824, 4721, 4722,  
4723, 4725, 4821, 4822, 4823, 4831, 4932, 4933,  
4934, 4935, 4936, 5030, 5031, 5032, 5133, 5034,  
5035, 5036, 5130, 5131, 5132, 5134, 5135, 5136.

The 61st PD Bn attached to the 88th Inf Div at the beginning of the month pressed on in the assault against KASSEL. Reports indicated the German garrisons there consisted of approximately 3,000 men and prepared tank obstacles. All roads leading into the town were mined and the usual roadblocks, defended with AT guns, etc., were encountered. The MISBACK Tank Bn (NO school for tankers) was contacted in this vicinity; together with the 180th Res Div, 835th AA Bn, 892d AA Bn, 15th Pz Gr Regt Alarm Co, and miscellaneous troops forming combat teams.

On 2 April 1945 2/3 of KASSEL had been cleared and our forces were proceeding through and around to the south of the town. Six Pz Kfz VI tanks and 11 Mark Pz Kfz IV and V tanks were reported in the KASSEL area. Six of our destroyers were knocked out when they were caught in an ambush early on the morning of 2 April 1945. Two enemy ME 109's straggled HOLZHAUSEN and vicinity. Bn CP located at HOLZHAUSEN (H185710). All resistance in KASSEL ceased on 3 April, and General Major ERLEBEN, Commanding General of the garrison of KASSEL, surrendered himself and an estimated 400 men. The attack continued to the NE and strong points of resistance were encountered vicinity of HILBERSBURGEN (83801) and towns in that vicinity. Enemy counter-attacks of company strength of infantry and 2 to 3 tanks in support were repulsed.



The following  
image(s) may be of  
poor quality due to  
the poor quality of  
the **original**.

**RESTRICTED**

Forces capable of intervention at this time included the possibility of those trapped in the MUR pocket, realizing their situation, and thereby attempting to establish a new MUR generally along a line PROBERG (B7017), NARBURG (B9822), KASSEL (C2303), LIEBACH (H8207). Until this pocket was cleared the above possibility remained a threat to our left flank.

5-11 April 1945

By 5 April our forces had advanced in zone and the enemy front lines were WANDERSLEBEN (J1900), GRANSLEBEN (J1704), PFERSLINGSLEBEN (J1007), BILSTADT (J1873). Bn CP, 811th TD Bn, was located in HERTINGHAUSEN (H173937). Many bridges along Autobahn were blown and mined. Contact was lost with the enemy on 6 April 1945, while our forces pushed rapidly to the east.

Battalion moved to GUTHA (J0805). Co C, 811th TD Bn, was strafed in column by enemy aircraft while on move to GUTHA 7 April 1945. Slight enemy resistance was met by our advancing troops vicinity GLERSSTADT (J109755) and GAMSTADT (J2165). Units contacted and identified by PW's were stragglers and deserters who had been away from their units for several days.

On 8 April 1945, 811th TD Bn Pioneer Platoon, Rcn Co, destroyed with TNT 23 SP guns with 57mm guns, two 57mm stationary guns mounted in turrets, and 2 armored cars with 20mm guns in woods vicinity (H8973).

On 9 April 1945 the enemy front lines were TUTTELSTADT (J2072), ZIMMERN-SUPRA (J1970), GOTTSTEDT (J2268), NEUDLETENDORF (J2302), HILL 283 (J2359). Enemy was attempting to defend with dug-in positions, small arms, automatic weapons, and bazooka fire. Resistance stiffened with the approach to ERFURT (J3067).

Reconnaissance Company continued reconnaissance in Div zone. Strong points of resistance were met at NEUDLETENDORF (J2361), SCHMIRA (J2766), and ALACH (J2470) where heavy small arms, automatic weapons, AA and mortar fire was received during period.

**RESTRICTED**

Combat team, Pader, and Combat team Wolf were reported to be attacking a town. Combat team Wolf was still resisting our assault on the city. The defending troops in positions, direct fire weapons, etc. Several tanks of company strength were received at the southern outskirts of the city. Tanks and SP guns were employed in the defense of the city.

12-17 April 1945

WITTE was cleared of enemy 12 1900. The enemy front lines were unknown as WITTE (J6109) was cleared 12 1300 and our reconnaissance elements reached GOS TERN (J6101), WITTE (J6109) and KIED (J6112).

WITTE (J6109) was cleared on 12 April. Resistance there consisted of small arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire.

Bn CP moved to WITTE 17 April 1945. Bn Co continued on mission of making reconnaissance in 50th Inf Division. S-2 with 19th Inf Regt relaying information from Bn Co to Regt and S-2. As this period closed our leading elements reached LAUDAU (K3607), WITTE (K3605) and GARNSDORF (K4109). Only point of contact was SE corner of LAUDAU. On 17 April 1945 Bn CP moved to MEERANE (K335000).

18 April 1945

Loved Bn CP to assembly area Bad Kostrotz (K003002), Sheet T5, 1/100,000. Out of contact with enemy. Enemy front lines was MITTELBACH (K5056), STEIN (K5960), WITTE (K6103), AVERS-WALDE (K6108), GARNSDORF (K6370), when Bn was disengaged.

Units last in contact were miscellaneous troops including 4th LANDESSCHUTZEN, VOLKSTURM, AA battalions, combat teams, etc. The resistance consisted of S/A, automatic weapons, and Panzerfaust.

19 April 1945

Bn moved to vicinity of SCHNEISDORF (O-341613).

21 April 1945

Company A and Company C, 811th TD Bn, attached to 3d Cav Gp.

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

24 April 1945

811th TD Bn, less Companies A and C, moved to NURNBERG, Sheet No. U5 (U4201).  
Between 22 to 26 April 1945 one ME 110 destroyed in flight by Company C.

At this time there was no enemy defensive line in contact. Reports indicated that the enemy held the following general areas: SARUBING (U5442), south of the Danube River to vicinity GLEND (U4351), wooded area at (U3748), vicinity KUFERIAK (U4047), vicinity of TRAUBLING (U2450), vicinity SANDORF (U1847, and a general line vicinity (U1742) SW of wooded area to vicinity N of TEUGEN (U1341) to SAAL (U0741) to HORNIPPFAHL (U0442).

27 April 1945

811th TD Bn, less Companies A and C, moved to HELLAU (T9558), Sheet V5, 1/100,000. Companies A and C reverted back to Battalion control.

28 April 1945

Moved to LAZESBURG (U2654), Sheet W5. Enemy front lines reported to be just N of ISAR River extending from ALBERTHEIM NE to HOFDOEF and TUNZENBERG to 80th Inf Div boundary. Army offered light resistance as our forces advanced toward the ISAR River.

29-30 April 1945

At the close of the month the enemy front lines were on south side of ISAR River from BRACHLING east along river to LAMING in 80th Div sector. In the assault crossing only light resistance was being received. All towns north of the ISAR in the zone have been cleared of enemy as the period ended. Enemy identifications made were mostly from replacement, supply and administration troops, mostly stragglers and not from actually committed combat troops. Resistance consisted of small fanatic groups armed with small arm, automatic weapons and Panzerfausts. Sporadic resistance and scattered groups continued to slow our advance toward the Elbe River.

**RESTRICTED**

**EQUIPMENT DESTROYED:**

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Avd CP</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Tanks:</b>							
Mk IV				2	1	2	5
Mk V				2		1	3
Mk VI				1		1	2
Half-Tracks					1		1
Armd Cars			1				1
SP Guns			25				25
AT Guns			2	5	1		8
20mm AA Guns					1		1
Ammo Dump						1	1
Barges						2	2
Airplane (in flight)						1	1
Mortar Position					1		1
Observation Post			1				1

**ENEMY PERSONNEL LOSSES:**

	<u>Hq</u>	<u>Avd CP</u>	<u>Rcn</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prisoners	16	15	363	347	178	282	1,201
Killed (est)			38	77	85	98	298
Wounded (est)			3	5	30	70	108

*Melvin J. Bryson*  
 MELVIN J. BRYSON,  
 Captain, MC (TD),  
 S-2.

SECTION III

S-1 REPORT

1-30 April 1945

Class I

Rations issued for the month of April consisted of 10 & 1's, and C type rations. Occasionally modified B type rations were issued.

Rations were plentiful and no serious shortages were encountered.

Class II

Clothing and individual equipment shortages prevailed throughout the period. Items such as OD uniforms, underclothes and shoes were very difficult to obtain. Maximum use of captured enemy clothing which were limited to underclothes.

Class III

Serious shortages of 50 and 30 weight oil was experienced throughout the period. On one occasion the movement of a tank destroyer company was delayed due to the non-availability of 50 weight oil. This lack of adequate supplies of oil existed in the Army supply points as well as Division supply point. Gasoline was plentiful.

Class IV

No Remarks

Class V

The usual lack of 76mm HVAP in large quantities existed.

Miscellaneous

Road conditions were generally good, although frequent delays and slow speeds resulted from refugees cluttering the roads.

The Battalion experienced long hauls due to the rapid advance of our forward elements.

# VEHICLE LOSSES:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armad, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armad, Light, M8	0	1	0	0	0	1
Carriage, Mtr, 70mm Gun M18	0	0	0	6	1	7
Vehicle, Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton Lhd, w/o						
w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0	1	8

# VEHICULAR REPLACEMENTS:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armad, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armad, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 70mm, Gun M18	0	0	0	3	1	4
Vehicle Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	1	0	0	1
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton, Lhd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, Lhd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrier, Cargo, M29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, Lhd, w/o						
w/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ambulance, 3/4 Ton	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	0	1	3	1	6

# AMMUNITION EXPENDED:

70mm, HE - - - - -	705	37mm, APC - - - - -	90
70mm, APC - - - - -	113	37mm, Canister - - - - -	0
Cal. .50 MG - - - - -	30,210	81mm, Mortar, HE - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 MG - - - - -	14,050	Rocket, AT, M6A3 - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 Rifle Ball - - - - -	3,306	Grenade, AT - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 Rifle AP - - - - -	534	Mine, AT, HE, M1A1 - - - - -	0
Cal. .30 Carbine - - - - -	2,920	Grenade, Hand, Frag - - - - -	118
Cal. .45 Ball - - - - -	200	Grenade, Inc - - - - -	19
37mm, HE - - - - -	129	Grenade, WP, M15 - - - - -	0
		Grenade, offensive - - - - -	12

JULIUS T. [Signature]  
CPT, FA (201)  
[Signature]

S-1 REPORT

SECTION IV

1-30 April 1945

TABLE NUMBER 1.

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
* * *						
3 Apr 45			7			7
* * *						
5 Apr 45	6		4	1		11
* * *						
9 Apr 45			1			1
* * *						
11 Apr 45			1			1
13 Apr 45			2	2		4
* * *						
17 Apr 45			1			1
18 Apr 45			2			2
* * *						
20 Apr 45			1			1

TABLE NUMBER 2.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
5 Apr 45	3
10 Apr 45	2
11 Apr 45	1
12 Apr 45	1
15 Apr 45	1
16 Apr 45	39
17 Apr 45	14
21 Apr 45	4
Total	65



TABLE NUMBER 3.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45, incl.

No.

—	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
—	Distinguished Service Cross
—	Silver Star (Posthumously)
<u>10</u>	Silver Star
<u>2</u>	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
—	Bronze Star (Posthumously)
<u>8</u>	Bronze Star
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
—	Air Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
—	Soldier's Medal
<u>6</u>	Purple Heart Award
—	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
—	(2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

Two officers of this organization previously listed in December 1944 as missing in action were liberated from enemy POW camps and one of the two reported to the organization for duty.

Thirty-one enlisted men of this organization listed in December 1944 as missing in action were liberated from enemy POW camps and from official information received have been returned to military control.

*Sam J. Rock*  
CLINT J. ROCK,  
2d Lt, (PA) TD,  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS  
811TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

7 June 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1 - 31 May 1945.

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

THRU : Commanding General, 80th Inf Div, APO 80, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1 - 31 May 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:

*May 4 5*

*[Signature]*  
CLERK, HON.  
2d Lt, FA (ID),  
Adjutant.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

**RESTRICTED**

380-2  
JUN 6 1945  
152

SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

From 01 0001 May 45 to 31 2400 May 45

1 - 4 May 1945

The opening of the month found the Battalion continuing its push towards the Nazi's last strong point, namely, the Redoubt Area situated in the Bavarian Alps in Austria. The Battalion continued to work with the 80th Infantry Division and on the first of May were occupying the following positions: Bn CP - MIEBACH (U2811); Hq & Hq Co - REGENSBURG (U2055); Rcn Co - POSTAU (U3715); Co A - HOLL (U5015); Co B - WEISCHSCHOFFEN (U4523); Co C - GRIESSENBACH (U3514).

Companies moved southward during this period against very little enemy opposition. Chief obstacles to our advance were terrain features; namely, rivers over which the retreating Germans had blown the existing bridges. During the night of the 1st and the morning of the 2d May 45, latter Companies crossed the ISAR River in their advance with the Infantry Regiments. Rcn Co was attached to the 319th Inf Regt on 1st and 2d May; however, when the 319th Inf Regt was withdrawn on the 3d May 45, Rcn Co was relieved of this attachment and in turn was attached to 317th Inf Regt on 3 May 45. While attached to these two Inf Regts, Rcn Co conducted reconnaissance along the Division's Zone of Advance.

4 - 7 May 1945

The high-light of this period occurred on the night of 4 May and morning of 5 May at which times all units of the Battalion crossed the INN River into Austria. It was evident at this time that the enemy was completely disorganized. As our advance southward into Austria continued, huge numbers of PW's were clogging all military routes in an effort to reach the nearest PW enclosure. By 5 May 1945 units of the Battalion were disposed as follows: Bn CP - VOCKLABRUCK (V4152); Hq & Hq Co - BUCH (Z8474); Rcn Co - STEINBACH (V8 [REDACTED])

**RESTRICTED**

WALDNEUKIRCHEN (V8654); Co B - BRANAU (Z9576); Co C - STEYR (V9760).

7 - 9 May 1945

On 7 May 45 the Battalion, less Rcn and A Cos, ceased offensive action. Rcn and ACos were attached to TF SMITH and 317th Inf Regt, respectively, and continued advance into vicinity SPIT AM PYHRN (V9618) in pursuit of 6th German Army. It was in this vicinity on 7 May 45 that Major General SOETH, CG, 6th German Army, officially surrendered his Army (approximately 60,000 men) to Capt Samuel W. Parsons, CO, Rcn Co, 811th TD Bn, who in turn presented the note of surrenderance to Major General McBRIDE, CO, 80th Inf Div.

9 - 12 May 1945

On 9 May 45 an official proclamation was issued by the Supreme Allied Commander that hostilities had ceased. On this date, Cos B and C were relieved from attachment 318th and 319th Inf Regts and reverted to Battalion control. On 10 May 45 Hq & Hq, B and C Cos moved to a Battalion Assembly Area in LAAKIRCHEN (V5349), Austria. During 11th and 12th May 45 these three companies were relieved of their attachments with TF SMITH and 317th Inf Regt, respectively, and returned to Battalion control in LAAKIRCHEN (V5349).

12 - 20 May 1945

During this period, the entire Battalion was once again assembled together. A training program was followed by all units which placed special emphasis on maintenance of vehicles, physical exercise and athletics together with an orientation program.

20 - 31 May 1945

On 20 May 45 the Battalion Commander was ordered to attach two companies to a Combat Team whose mission was to proceed to vicinity of JUDENBURG, Austria. Accordingly, Cos A and C were attached to 3d and 43d Cavalry Squadrons which comprised a part of the Task Force. These two companies left Bn area in LAAKIRCHEN (V5349) at 20 0600 May 45, and closed into their new area during night of the

**RESTRICTED**

20th May. This Task Force did not reach its previously anticipated destination due to the fact that a British Army was occupying that sector. On orders of CO's of units to which attached, Co A closed into area in vicinity of RADSTADT (A3281) and Co C in vicinity of MAUTERNDORF (A5055). They remained in these positions during the remainder of the month and maintained law and order. At close of period, they were being relieved of this mission and were preparing to return to Battalion control at LAAKIRCHEN, Austria.

The remainder of Battalion (Hq & Hq, Rcn and B Cos), conducted training in Battalion area at LAAKIRCHEN, Austria, during the period. In addition, preparations were being made to conduct schools in conjunction with the Army's I&E Program.

In the eight (8) days prior to the cessation of hostilities, three thousand seven hundred and ten (3,710) PW's were captured and two enemy observation planes were destroyed in flight. In addition, the Battalion accepted the surrenderance of the 6th German Army, which consisted of between 5,000 and 60,000 men.

*France B. McConkie*  
FRANCE B. MCCONKIE,  
Captain, FA (TD),  
S-3

**RESTRICTED**

SECTION II

S-2 REPORT

From 0001 1 May 45 to 2400 31 May 45

Laps: Central Europe - 1/100,000, GSGS 4416.  
Sheets Number: W6, W7, W8, X7, X8, X9, Y8, Y9.

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 80th Infantry Division, continued on its mission and passed through elements of the 65th Infantry Division, following up the attack of the 13th Armored Division. By the first of May, units of the Battalion had reached the north bank of the ISAR River. The Battalion CP was located at MIRSCHOFEN, Germany, Sheet Number W6 (U2511).

The enemy initially offered moderate resistance of small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire on the bridgehead south of ISAR River, but resistance greatly decreased as troops advanced to GROSSEVILS River. All bridges over the GROSSEVILS River in the zone had been blown (from FRONTENHAUSEN (U5305) and ALTERSBERG (U6310), except one jeep bridge at STEINBERG (U5608) captured intact).

According to a statement made by an officer PW the enemy planned its main line of resistance along the south bank of the GROSSEVILS River. Units contacted in this area were 36th VGD, 38th SS Div. NIEBLUNGEN, together with miscellaneous units including two Landesschuetzen battalions, 814 and 829, both believed to be operating under the control of 36th VGD.

Our Reconnaissance Company reached LANDSHUT on the first of May and there contacted the 14th Armored Division. Two enemy SP guns vicinity (U297035) and eight tanks were reported dug in with infantry security at (U265028), but withdrew before contact was made.

**RESTRICTED**

811th TD Bn Forward CP moved to (27435) on the 3d May, later on moving up to (29175), vicinity of SEIBACH on the INN River.

4 - 6 May 1945

On 4 May the situation had become fluid and no front lines existed. The only point of contact with the enemy was vicinity SCHWANENSTADT (U4957) and VOCKLABRUCK (V4151) where elements were reported dug in. A Hungarian Division surrendered here and large numbers of enemy troops were observed moving to the south by rail as well as motorized and horse-drawn vehicles. One Panatical group made a defensive stand at TIMELKAM (V375507). The enemy succeeded in knocking out two U. S. tanks and one armored car, killing four and wounding several.

Battalion Forward CP opened in VOCKLABRUCK (V4151) 5 May. Our units had cleared all areas north of ENNS River in the Division zone taking large groups of PW's and encountering little resistance.

7 - 10 May 1945

Reconnaissance Company and Company A, attached to Task Force Smythe, who moved into KIRCHDORF (V7743) were given the mission to proceed south to annihilate an enemy of unknown strength.

At MICHELDORF (V7740) other reconnaissance elements of the Task Force contacted a German Captain who, under a white flag took the Task Force G-2 to his headquarters. Nothing was accomplished and it was believed the Germans would defend.

At 0500 hours, 8 May, elements of Reconnaissance Company heard a heavy explosion to the south. Two platoons and the Pioneer Platoon moved out of MICHELDORF at 0600 hours and found that a roadblock, formed by blowing an embankment, had been made by the enemy one mile south of KLAUS. A dismounted patrol moved across the roadblock where they contacted one hundred enemy who

6

[REDACTED]

surrendered. These PW's were put to work on the roadblock by the Reconnaissance Pioneer Platoon, removing it in one hour and thirty minutes. The Task Force moved forward to its objective which was a bridge in the vicinity of KNIENAS. Here the advance elements contacted the Burgermeister who surrendered his town and reported that the next village also wished to surrender. The leading Reconnaissance elements moving out to outpost the objective ran into the tail end of a horse-drawn convoy of approximately two companies who promptly surrendered.

Our reconnaissance was then ordered forward and began by-passing the enemy column.

An experimental laboratory for jet-propelled airplane engines was found at KLAUS and an underground radio station vicinity STERLING (7832), whose personnel had been instructed to turn same over to the first allied troops reaching that position. This was referred to the Task Force CIC detachment.

Enemy was again contacted in the vicinity of KNIENAS (V8030) who surrendered in small groups. A few miles south an enemy motorized column was contacted.

About ten miles northwest of GARSTEN, Austria, an SS Lieutenant representing the commander offered to surrender all German troops in the area. This information was transmitted to General McBride, Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division. The General and the G-2, escorted by Reconnaissance Company, moved out with the SS Lieutenant to LIEZEN to contact the German Commander. Arrangements for the surrender, assembling and disarming of the enemy were made. Reconnaissance Company was then ordered to proceed to SPIEL AM PIRN (V9217).

[REDACTED]



**RESTRICTED**

Reconnaissance Company was attached to 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment, on 9 May 1945, and was used as small detachments, in conjunction with the CIC, moving into the outlying territory north of ENNS River. A German General was captured on road between GARSTEN (V9424) and KNIEHNAS (V8130).

About fifteen miles south of SPAYER on the ENNS River, the 2d Platoon, and the Pioneer Platoon of Reconnaissance Company were sent to blow a bridge (V0060) to prevent the enemy from retreating across the ENNS. Upon reaching the vicinity of their objective they found the roads to the bridge blocked by German vehicles and personnel. The demolitions were carried past these vehicles for about three miles, on captured horses, and the bridge blown. Enemy PW's stated that SS troops had killed several Wehrmacht troops, but this was unconfirmed.

The two platoons from Reconnaissance Company then returned to SPITAL AM PYHRN (V9618) where they were used to guard gold bullion, property of the Hungarian Government. Large groups of disarmed PW's were assembled and moved from LIEZEN (V8906) to SPITAL AM PYHRN.

Task Force Black including 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, captured an airport about one mile south of KIRCHDORF (V7643) where they were outposting. Three ME 109's, unoperational, one American B-24 with German markings, three Junker 88's, and one German liaison plane were captured. Approximately fifteen German stragglers were taken at the airport.

Unconditional surrender was announced 09000 1 May 1945. Many of the enemy continued to remain on the roads in the Division zone.

10 - 14 May 1945

Commanding Officer, 311th Tank Destroyer Battalion, ordered screening of all males of Leckirchen, Austria, between the ages of 15 and 60 in the

~~SECRET~~

interest of local security. As a result of this 299 former German soldiers, mostly in civilian clothes, and 9 political arrests were made. Included in this group of political arrests was the Nazi Superintendent of STEYERWHL Labor Camp.

14 - 31 May 1945

The 6th German Army completed its assembly in the area vicinity MOOSBACH (V0370) except for stragglers. Strength as of 162400B was 3,890 officers and 94,295 NCO's and EM.

Companies A and C were attached to 3d U. S. Cavalry Group on 20 May 1945 and moved to the valley between RADSTADT (A3281), Austria and MAUTERNDORF, Austria. Here they remained for the remainder of the month of May where they contacted elements of the British Eighth Army.

Enemy Equipment Destroyed  
and  
Personnel Captured

One (1) enemy airplane was destroyed by Company C, and one (1) by Reconnaissance Company. A total of 3,710 PW's were taken by 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and approximately one hundred killed or wounded from 1 to 9 May 1945, inclusive.

*Samuel W. Parsons*  
SAMUEL W. PARSONS,  
Captain, FA (TR),  
S-2.

[REDACTED]

RESTRICTED

SECTION III

S-4 REPORT

1 - 30 May 1945

1. The requirements of this organization were generally good for all classes of supply.

Class I

Modified "B" ration was available for the first half of the month. The latter two weeks consisted of "10 in 1" and "B" rations approximately every other day.

Class II

Fair; this unit needs clothing and has only been able to obtain one-third of that requisitioned, and part of that was Class "B".

Class III

Excellent, even though gas and lubricants requirements were very high.

Class IV

Good.

Class V

Good.

2. The serious handicap of the almost non-existent ordnance support, especially with armored vehicles. The supporting units have been, or are now 65 miles in rear of our rear echelon. As a result our maintenance is continuously falling behind.

3. Road conditions have been good.

#### 4. Vehicular Losses:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun M18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle, Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton 4x4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/o W/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### 5. Vehicular Replacements:

	Hq	Rcn	A	B	C	Total
Car, Armd, Utility, M20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car, Armd, Light, M8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carriage, Mtr, 76mm Gun M18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Tank Recovery, M32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, Ammo, M10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cargo						
Carrier, Cargo, M29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 3/4 Ton 4x4, w/o W/12 Volt System	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 1 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck, 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### 6. Ammunition Expended:

Cal .30 Carbine	-	3,900
Cal .30 Rifle Ball	-	240
Cal .30 MG	-	12,500
Cal .45 Ball	-	100
Cal .50 MG	-	4,620
37mm APC	-	91

Howard P. Clarke, Jr.  
HOWARD P. CLARKE, JR.,  
Captain, FA (TD),  
S-4.

S-1 REPORT

SECTION IV

1 - 31 May 1945

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY  
(Figures taken from Morning Reports up to  
and including 31 May 1945 for the period  
1 - 31 May 1945)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 May 45			1	1		2
2 May 45			1			1
* * *						
5 May 45			2			2
* * *						

TABLE NUMBER 2.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED  
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>
4 May 45	1
6 May 45	2
8 May 45	16
11 May 45	1
12 May 45	1
13 May 45	1
14 May 45	2
15 May 45	6
17 May 45	1
20 May 45	1
26 May 45	9
29 May 45	1
31 May 45	2
Total	44

**RESTRICTED**

TABLE NUMBER 3.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 May 45 to 31 May 45, incl.

No.

—	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
—	Distinguished Service Cross
<u>2</u>	Silver Stars (Posthumously)
<u>3</u>	Silver Stars
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
<u>2</u>	Bronze Stars (Posthumously)
<u>14</u>	Bronze Stars
<u>2</u>	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
—	Air Medal
—	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
—	Soldier's Medal.
<u>6</u>	Purple Heart Awards
—	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
—	(2d) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.

*Clayton*  
CLAYTON, HUI,  
2d Lt, FA (TD),  
Adjutant.