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8th Tank Bn

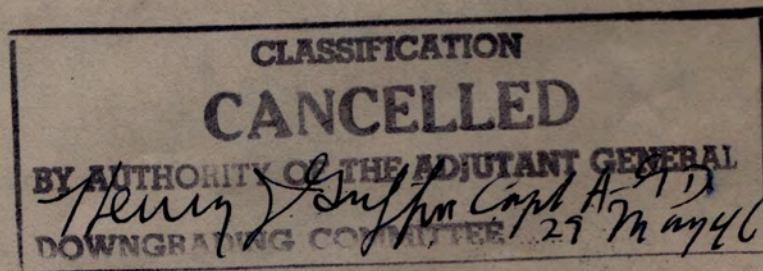
Jul 1944 - 9 May 1945



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8TH TANK BN, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION

AFTER ACTION REPORT - July 1944



INCL # 13 <sup>1</sup>



HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
APO 254, U.S. Army

18 February 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report for July 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.  
(Thru Channels)

Under the provisions of Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by Change Number 3, the following After Action Report is submitted:

On 17 July 1944, the 8th Tank Battalion moved into position near the town of RAIDS, Normandy, as a unit in CC"A". It remained in that location, and in unchanged status, until 27 July; a period during which no direct contact was made with the enemy, though the assault gun and mortar platoons did proceed forward and support an attack staged by an adjacent division. In the late afternoon of that date, the unit was informed that it was to be attached to CC"B" for the "break-through" out of Normandy which, according to plan, was to commence the following day.

The early morning of 28 July introduced the major assault. All elements of the 8th Tank Battalion, in company with the other units of CC"B", proceeded at a fast pace through the towns of RAIDS, PERIERS, and ST. SAUVIER-DE-TENDILEN, completely unopposed by the enemy, and showing, when the column was halted, a total gain of 15 miles. The thrust was continued throughout nearly all of the next day when another 6½ mile gain was made against but very light resistance. A contact was also effected with elements of both the 2nd and 3rd Armored Divisions.

On the 30th of July, as the Battalion advanced on the Northern outskirts of AVRANCHES with Company "A" as advance guard, the enemy began to show signs of fight. The Battalion then wheeled to the EAST and contacted the opposition in a fierce battle which raged in varying degrees of intensity until 0200 of the 31st. Though the resistance was heavy, our casualties were surprisingly light; the tanks, too, accounted for many horse-drawn carts, light reconnaissance vehicles, and anti-tank guns for but a negligible loss. Having thus been "baptized", all elements pushed forward, and assisted only by Company "C" of the 53rd Armored Infantry, initiated an attack upon the town of TIREPIED, which, though strongly defended by the enemy with artillery and some tanks, was securely in our hands by nightfall. A weak counterattack staged by the enemy in the late evening was easily repulsed. The German prisoners, an estimated two hundred, were evacuated.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2.

Incls:

Certificate

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HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
APO 254, U.S. Army

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that all journals have been destroyed by enemy action for  
the period covered by this report.

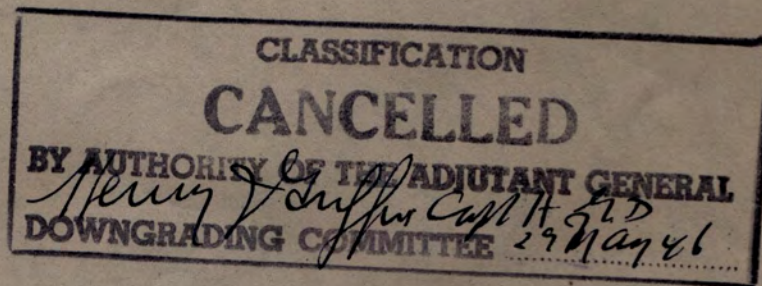
*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2.



L-461, 12

8TH TANK BATTALION, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION

AFTER ACTION REPORT - August 1944



INCL #13 <sup>2</sup>



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HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
APO 254, U.S. Army

18 February 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report for August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.  
(Thru Channels)

Under the provisions of Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by Change Number 3, the following After Action Report for this command is submitted:

In the afternoon of the 1st of August, still as a part of CC"B", the Battalion departed its position at TIREPIED for a march to RENNES where it was to join the remainder of the Division. The march of 48 miles, with little enemy contact, was accomplished by noon of the 2nd day with our arrival in an area directly North of RENNES. The encirclement of the city was begun early the next morning, and resulted finally, after having marched another 96 miles during the day and better part of the night, in our arrival at ST. VINCENT, where a brief pause of a day's length was effected to perform the necessary maintenance and replenishment, and to allow the personnel some rest. Only patrols, encountering but a minimum of enemy activity, were maintained.

On the 5th of August, the battalion took its departure from ST. VINCENT, and traveled 20 miles to a point 6 miles East of Reden. The 6th of August saw the continuation of the march, with Lorient as the final objective, and our arrival at Baud. The entire movement was not once seriously opposed by the enemy. Adverse activity first became manifest on the 7th day of the month during the march to QUEVEN, a town only four miles from Lorient. All of the battalion, except Company "C" which, with the assault gun platoon attached, was leading the column, was in CC"B" reserve. Company "C" intercepted a train carrying both supplies and troops, and during the ensuing battle completely destroyed the train and inflicted very heavy casualties on the personnel. The company then aided the Infantry in a limited attack in the immediate area.

Intense shelling of the area by the enemy commenced early the next day. The fire succeeded in searching out a number of vehicles, and resulted in our sustaining the heaviest loss in personnel since the advent of the campaign. The location was not changed, however, though the artillery and mortar fire was intermittently heavy, until the following night, at which time the position was evacuated in favor of an area just North of PONT SCORFF. The mission of containing the enemy forces at LORIENT having been assigned, the personnel spent the 10th of August digging in and consolidating. The activity was limited to small skirmishing patrols for the next three days. Occasional enemy shelling continued for the same period.

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## (8th Tank Battalion After Action Report for August 1944 cont'd)

The relief forces arrived in the late afternoon of the 14th. The Battalion moved out, and after having marched all night, arrived at an area East of BAUD 0500 of the 15th. The march was resumed at 1100 with an area South of LE MANS as the destination. The remainder of the day, all of the night, and the next day until 1600 were spent in marching. Upon reaching an area in the vicinity of CHATEAU RENAULT at the end of this time, the Battalion had executed, since it had departed from BAUD, a non-stop trip of 229 miles.

The period from the 17th through the 20th was spent in general maintenance and care of vehicles and equipment. The engines and tracks on the tanks were repaired or changed. On the 18th, the unit was changed from CC"B" to CC"R", and on the 20th, after receiving alert orders on a move scheduled for the next day, was again switched back. Upon receipt of the orders, preparations were made for the thrust.

At daybreak of the 21st of August, the Battalion commenced its march on MONTARGIS. Again it was a long trek of 108 miles, requiring the length of the day to reach the bivouac area in the vicinity of CORBEILLES. Enemy counter-measures never became a serious threat to our progress. After arriving at the bivouac area, one task force was posted in a position to assure the continued control of the bridge at SOUPPES, and another, composed of Companies "C" and "D", assisted the 3rd Cavalry in scouring the flanks before dark. The next morning, with the 8th Tank Battalion as the leading unit, another 37 miles was gained toward the objective against stiffening enemy resistance. The town of COURTENAY was attacked on the way, and was officially taken at 1500. On the following day, while the remainder of the battalion retained its position on the Southern end of COURTENAY, Company "A" aided the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion in the battle for MONTARGIS. The battle was intense though comparatively brief. Most severe damage and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. At the consummation of the engagement, the Germans were completely cleared of the town.

No further move was made until the 25th; the day prior being a quiet one with no enemy contacts. At 1000, all companies were alerted to move to the East with AUXON as the destination. The entire journey of 51 miles was unimpeded by the opposing forces. Here, the next two days were passed with but little hostile activity. A German JU 52 was shot down near the area on the 26th; 17 women PWs being taken; on the same day, a task force was sent to the vicinity of LES CROUTES to engage a reported enemy but no contact was made. At 1930 the next evening movement orders were received.

On the 28th of August, after a 30 mile march, begun at 0845 and routed through TROYES, the Battalion reached a location in the vicinity of PINEY. The objective was again accomplished before an enemy swiftly falling back. With outposts placed, all companies went into bivouac and remained so throughout the night and following day. The 30th included a 17 mile march to, and the liberation of BRIENNE LE CHATEAU, a town but lightly defended by troops in a completely disorganized state. Maintaining the initiative, the unit pushed on another 48 miles to CHEVILLON pushing what resistance there was before it.

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(8th Tank Battalion After Action Report for August 1944 cont'd)

Though road blocks and blown bridges lay in the path, by dusk, on the 31st of August, the Battalion had accomplished the crossing of the MARNE river. Task forces immediately secured the dominating ground on the East bank of the river, and established a strong bridgehead of some depth. About twenty-five prisoners were taken during the night frays and were promptly evacuated.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2

Incls:

Certificate



HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
APO 254, U.S. Army.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that all journals have been destroyed by enemy action for  
the period covered by this report.

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2.



CANCELLED  
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23 AUG 1945  
HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
APO 254

OPD  
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6 November 1944.

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944

1 September - Left Chevillon at 0700 for Vancouleurs. Made no contact with enemy. Traveled 37 miles, and bivouaced on East bank of Meuse River. Out-posted high ground East of river.

2 September - Same location. No enemy activity. Resupplying and maintenance.

3 September - Same location. No enemy activity. Patrols still out.

4 September - Same location. No change in situation.

5 September - Same location. No change in situation.

6 September - Same location. No change in situation.

7 September - Same location. No change in situation.

8 September - Same location. No change in situation.

9 September - Same location. No change in situation.

10 September - Battalion orders issued at 1400. Moved East at 1900. Bivouaced East of Madon at 2300. No enemy contact. Traveled 31 miles.

11 September - Moved to site overlooking Moselle River. Heavy fighting all day to establish bridgehead. This battalion and attached Infantry Battalion crossed Moselle. 300 prisoners were taken and much enemy equipment destroyed.

12 September - Repulsed determined enemy counter-attack with heavy losses to enemy. Own losses very light.

13 September - Moved out from vicinity of Bayon in early afternoon to cross Meurthe River. Heavy fighting for town of Blainville Sur L'Eau. Killed many enemy and destroyed much enemy equipment with no loss to ourselves. Crossed Meurthe River and took up position North of it. Position was shelled all night. Casualties light. Traveled 14 miles during entire day.

14 September - Planned and executed first concerted Battalion attack combined with Infantry and Artillery. High ground North of Hudviller taken. Road from Nancy to Luneville cut. Many enemy killed and much equipment destroyed.

15 September - Mission to seize crossings on Le Saunon River at Crevic. Had no luck all day in the face of very heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Had crossing at Summerviller ready after dark. 35th Infantry Division held bridgehead and tanks prepared to cross.

16 September - Crossed river at Summerviller. Advanced North through Haracourt. Received enemy artillery fire there. Advanced on to Corbesseau. Town defended. Attacked town and took it. One company went on to Remerviller. Captured 50 prisoners and destroyed much enemy equipment. Company "B" destroyed

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AFTER ACTION REPORT - MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944 (cont'd)

21 enemy anti-tank guns south of Remerviller, alone. Distance traveled 11 miles.

17 September - Moved on North through Erbeviller and Mazeaullès. Very wet ground made going difficult. Enemy resistance light. Traveled 15 miles total.

18 September - Battalion moved to high ground overlooking Chateau Salines from the west. Bivouac'd in vicinity of Fresnes-en-Saulnois. Destroyed several enemy vehicles, and caused several casualties. Traveled 16 miles.

19 September - Located on high ground west of Chateau Salines. Patrols out to west to vicinity of Lemoncourt. Enemy patrols encountered during night and were repulsed. Enemy artillery on our positions. Friendly artillery fired observed fire from our position on enemy columns to the north and east.

20 September - Same location. Enemy patrols and artillery active. No direct contact.

21 September - Same location. Enemy artillery heavy on our positions. Enemy patrols at night, all repulsed.

22 September - Same location. Enemy artillery heavy. Friendly units came up to support.

23 September - Same location. Enemy artillery intensity increased. Received information of enemy counter-attack, from higher headquarters, to hit us on 24 Sept. Prepared ourselves to meet counter-attack.

24 September - Enemy counter-attack started at 0600 without artillery preparation. Enemy force was mostly tanks, with light infantry support. Counter-attack was repulsed with very heavy losses to the enemy. Air corps helped very much. Our losses were heavier than usual. No ground was given by this battalion.

25 September - Heavy enemy artillery fire on our positions through-out day. Details of relief came down.

26 September - Relief by elements of 35th Infantry Division was affected at dawn. Moved out at dawn and traveled 25 miles to position East of Arracourt. Arrived there about 1600. At 1900 an enemy counter-attack of infantry supported by 7 tanks hit our position. Counter-attack was repulsed, 3 enemy tanks were destroyed, several enemy infantry killed, and one prisoner was taken. No ground was given by this battalion.

27 September - Enemy heavy artillery and direct fire weapons shelled position all day. Shelling continued into the night. Enemy patrols trying to penetrate lines were repulsed.

28 September - Same location. Sporadic artillery fire on our positions through-out the day. Air support helped to silence enemy artillery for awhile.

29 September - Same location. Attached and took Hill 318 with support of air power. Destroyed 8 enemy tanks with no tank losses of our own.

30 September - Same location. Sporadic enemy artillery fire. Front quiet. Lt. Col. Conley, the Battalion Commander, transferred to new position. Lt. Col. Reid took over command of battalion.

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23 AUG 1945  
HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
APO 254

OPP  
ETO-1

6 November 1944.

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

1 October - Same location, East of Arracourt. Front quiet. Sparadic artillery fire.

2 October - Same location, front quiet. Sparadic enemy artillery fire.

3 October - Same location, front quiet. Sparadic artillery fire.

4 October - Same location, front quiet. Sparadic artillery fire.

5 October - Same location, front quiet. Sparadic artillery fire.

6 October - Same location, front quiet. Sparadic artillery fire.

7 October - Same location, front quiet. Sparadic artillery fire.

8 October - Battalion was relieved at position vicinity of Arracourt by units of 26th Infantry Division. Moved back to vicinity of Serres to a rest period. Day was spent in making camp, setting up kitchens, and making everyone comfortable.

9 October - Vicinity of Serres. Maintenance performed on vehicles and equipment.

10 October - Same location. Rest period. Plans prepared on counter-attack plan to support 35th Infantry Division.

11 October - Same location. Rest period.

12 October - Same location. Rest period.

13 October - Same location. Rest period.

14 October - Same location. Rest period.

15 October - Same location. Rest period.

16 October - Same location. Rest period.

17 October - Same location. Rest period.

18 October - Same location. Rest period.

19 October - Same location. Rest period.

20 October - Same location. Rest period.

21 October - Same location. Rest period.

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AFTER ACTION REPORT - MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944 (Cont'd)

22 October - Same location. Rest period.

23 October - Battalion moved back to the vicinity of Harracourt. Still in rest period. Spent day in making everyone as comfortable as possible.

24 October - Harracourt. Rest period.

25 October - Same location. Rest period.

26 October - Battalion relieved from CG "B", and attached directly to 26th Infantry Division, to support them in case of a counter-attack. Did not change location.

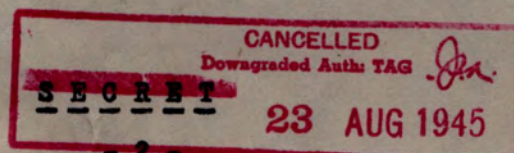
27 October - Same location. Attached to 26th Infantry Division.

28 October - Same location. Attached to 26th Infantry Division.

29 October - Same location. Attached to 26th Infantry Division.

30 October - Same location. Attached to 26th Infantry Division.

31 October - Same location. Attached to 26th Infantry Division.





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23 AUG 1945

HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

16 December 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

Following is the "After Action Report" as recorded by the S-2 Section of this Organization:

November 6 - 8 Haracourt, France.

Briefing and preparation for the coming move.

November 9 Delme Ridge

Move from Haracourt to Delme Ridge through Manhoe.

Road blocks and mine belts encountered were reduced by the Engineers. Two (2) M4 tanks and three (3) M5 tanks were lost to mines. One (1) M5 tank was lost through direct fire. A few 20 mm and 47 mm were encountered and destroyed.

November 10 - 12

Moved through Viviers and on to Hannocourt. After passing through Viviers, the Germans moved back into town. The task force was cut off for two (2) days and one (1) night. Artillery fire and direct tank and anti-tank fire was continuous coupled with Infantry counter-attacks. The 320th Regiment, 2d Battalion moved into Viviers and relieved the pressure, enabling the task force to be supplied.

November 13 Marthile.

Road blocks and hasty mines along the route slowed the march. Company "A" attacked high ground N.W. of Marthile, using intensive marching fire. As a result, a large number of enemy artillery pieces (7-88-11-75-100 enemy killed, unknown number wounded) were surprised and over-run before they could adjust fire effectively. No prisoners were taken.

November 14 Destry.

March was almost entirely on road. Cross country movement bogged the tanks when they tried to maneuver. No contact was made with enemy.

November 15 - 17

Extremely poor weather and mud caused the column to advance very slowly. Company "A" was attached to the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion and proceeded to a point two (2) miles N.E. of Morhange.

November 18

At 1900, 17 November, 8th Tank Battalion ordered to move back to Serres for short period of maintenance and reorganization. Remained in Serres from the 17 to the 19 of November.

November 20

Battalion marched from Serres to Mulcey. Spent the night on the road.

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23 AUG 1945

Ltr, Hq, 8th Tank Bn, dated 16 December 44 (Cont'd)

November 21

Marched through Dieuze to Cutting, mines and road blocks were encountered but no enemy contact.

November 22

Task Force EZELL encountered mines, road blocks and demolitions in their advance on Mittersheim. The town was lightly defended by some 20 mm fire. Task Force received some 150 and 105 mm artillery fire. Entire Battalion occupied Mittersheim night of 22 November.

November 23

Battalion advanced on Fenetrangle accompanied by one company, 53rd Armored Infantry. Opposition consisted of steady and accurate artillery fire. Road crates and mines and light enemy Infantry within town of Fenetrangle.

November 24

On morning of 24th, Battalion secured bridge over Saar River at Romelfing. During the next three (3) days held the bridge-head in the face of heavy enemy opposition, artillery fire and very poor terrain. Enemy strong points consisted of the town of Pisdorf and Barendorf.

November 27

Battalion attacked Wolfskirschen in conjunction with 51st Armored Infantry Battalion. Company "C" took high ground East of town under severe artillery fire falling in the concentrations. Company "D" accompanied the Infantry into town and supporting them in house to house fighting by MG and 37 mm direct fire. Town was secured and outposted by 1600. Enemy losses in personnel were heavy.

November 28 - 30

On 28 November, the Battalion attacked the commanding ground in vicinity of Burbach which cut the main highway Saare-Union Dreslingen.

December 1

Advance on Rimsdorf and occupied and outposted the village in the face of direct fire and heavy artillery concentrations.

December 2 - 3

Battalion attacked and occupied the high ground 1,000 yards West of Rimsdorf. Enemy tank and Infantry were driven off. Three (3) enemy tanks were knocked out.

December 4 - 5

Battalion captured Voellendingen, the bridge and Nickelbush woods 1,500 yards N.E. of the town. Losses were one (1) M4 while knocking out two (2) enemy tanks.

December 6

Marched cross country from Nickelbush woods to contact friendly forces which were engaged in the vicinity of Singling. We attempted unsuccessfully to relieve friendly forces and take the town of Singling. We suffered the loss of two (2) tanks and found this to be a well-fortified position and a part of the Maginot defenses.

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23 AUG 1945

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23 AUG 1945

Ltr, Hq, 8th Tank Bn, dated 16 Dec 44 (Cont'd)

December 7

The Battalion remained on ground before this strong point. We received concentration of 30 to 40 rounds of artillery and many direct fire weapons. Orders were to hold. At this point, the 8th Tank Battalion was less than 10,000 yards from enemy international border.

December 8

Battalion was relieved by 12th Armored Division and ordered to the town of Domnon-les-Dieuze for a period of maintenance and reorganization.

Pertinent overlays, logs and messages are lacking due to loss or destruction by enemy action.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Capt., Infantry,  
S-2.

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23 AUG 1945

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HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. ARMY

CJS/jgb

16 January 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Following is the "After Action Report" as recorded by the S-2 Section of this Organization and includes period from 19 December 1944 to 15 January 1945.

19 December 1944

The Battalion left Domnon-Le-Dieuze on one hour alert at 0500 to go North on an unknown mission with Combat Command "B". The route of march was Bermering, Baronville, Destry, Brulange, Pont-a-Musson, Avarville, Chambley, Audun, Aumetz, Longwy, Messancy, Tiffort, Chateau-du-Monarch, Leglise, Vaux-le-Rosieres, and Nives. The Battalion closed in bivouac at 2330; mileage covered one hundred and fifty (150) miles.

20 December 1944

No enemy contact. Task Force EZELL, consisting of Company "A" plus one (1) company of the 10th Infantry Battalion plus one (1) battery of the 22nd Field Artillery Battalion went into Bastogne to aid Combat Command "B" of the 10th Armored Division. On the road to Bastogne, the Task Force came upon two (2) Battalions of friendly artillery in position along the road but guns were not manned. The Battalion was apparently counter-attacked early that same morning and left equipment intact. Task Force Commander contacted the 101st Airborne Infantry Division and was given the situation and plan in which he was to be used. Before the plan was executed, Task Force EZELL was relieved of mission and returned to our Battalion Area at Nives. The Battalion left for new assembly area at 1600 and arrived at Leglise at 1830. No enemy contact.

21 December 1944

Ordered to turn off all radios at 0900 and stand-by to make a push December 22nd at 0600 with the 26th and 80th Infantry Divisions. Proposed route was Antelise, Louftemount, Fauvillers, Chaumont. The Battalion prepared and was ready for movement.

22 December 1944

The Battalion started to move out at 0430 and crossed IP at 0600. Order of march: "D" - "A", "B", "C". Moved through Fauvillers without opposition. Continued through Hotte, Menufontaine to Burnon. Received direct fire from the vicinity of Strainchamps. Sporadic artillery and direct fire was also received through the dark hours. Pulled into security set-up at 1900. At 2100, received orders from higher headquarters to move immediately towards Bastogne to relieve the besieged garrison. Columns started to move at 2300. Met stiff resistance at the outset.

23 December 1944

Column met strong enemy resistance along the way between Burnon and Chaumont, including heavy small arms, anti-tank fire, bazookas, and enemy infantry. We gained about one (1) mile. The Battalion was ordered about 0400 to reorganize and prepare for coordinated attack

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23 AUG 1945

Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn, dated 18 Jan 1945 (cont'd)

in the morning. At first light, enemy counter-attacked. In early morning we knocked out one (1) enemy tank and losses were light, including one (1) light tank. After entering Chaumont, enemy launched another fierce counter-attack. We were thrown out of Chaumont, but occupied the high ground south of and overlooking the town. We were forced to abandon eleven (11) tanks which were knocked out or mired in the mud. Twenty-two (22) enemy tanks were observed and thrown in against us with aid of Infantry. Early in the day, at 1330, two (2) enemy planes were shot down over our rear areas. C 47's could be seen dropping supplies in the vicinity of Bastogne. Some propaganda leaflets were dropped on our front lines. US tanks with stars and panels were observed being used against us by the enemy. The ground south of Chaumont was completely ours but the town was not.

24 December 1944

We continued consolidating the ground which was already ours. Brisk fighting continued with enemy bazooka fire and small arms active throughout the day. Enemy infiltration tactics were repulsed; we took twenty-five (25) PW's and killed approximately one hundred (100). At about 2100, the 2nd Battalion of the 318th Infantry Regiment was attached to us to assist in clearing out the woods around Chaumont and advancing with us to reach Bastogne.

25 December 1944

We launched a coordinated attack with the 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry Regiment and the 10th Infantry Battalion. We received adequate air support. Our elements took high grounds Northeast and Northwest of Chaumont. The 318th Infantry Regiment took Chaumont at 1930. We took one hundred and fifty (150) PW's and killed fifty (50), also accounted for three (3) 88mm guns, one (1) MK4 tank and two (2) 75mm guns. No action during night. We recovered seven (7) out of the eleven (11) tanks abandoned in Chaumont.

26 December 1944

Tanks and Infantry of the 8th, 10th and 318th took Grandrue and high ground to the North and Northeast at Salvacourt. The air corps accounted for eight (8) 88mm guns which threatened our advance. Fierce battle raged all day against heavy enemy small arms, bazooka, and anti-tank fire. Our Infantry casualties were high because of enemy small arms fire; we captured two hundred (200) PW's and killed one hundred and fifty (150). The 318th Infantry Regiment took Hompre by 2030.

27 December 1944

Jumped off at first light to make contact with besieged garrison at Bastogne. The advance was slow against heavy enemy small arms, tanks, and anti-tank fire. Our patrols made contact with the 101st Airborne Infantry Division at 1800 and made the highway South of Bastogne secure for supply functions. We captured seventy-five (75) PW's and killed ninety (90). We also recaptured several US vehicles, including two (2) 1/4 ton, trucks, C & R, two (2) 57mm, towed guns, and three (3) half-tracks.

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Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn, dated 16 Jan 1945 (cont'd)

28 December 1944

We continued to consolidate positions and widen a gap for evacuation and supply. Enemy was flushed to the North and East. We held good, secure positions. Sporadic artillery occasionally fell.

29 December 1944

The sector to our right was counter-attacked and we moved so as to physically tie-in with Combat Command "A" while they were fighting off the attack. We did not physically enter into the battle. Enemy were active at night and bombed our front line positions. No casualties were caused.

30 December 1944

Enemy bombed and strafed near Bastogne and fifteen (15) rounds of rockets landed in Assenois, near our Command post. Enemy counter-attacked 35th Infantry Division sector and overlapped into Combat Command "A" sector. Twenty-two (22) enemy tanks and Infantry were reported and the Air Force were very active and accounted for eighteen (18) of these enemy tanks. This attack was completely repulsed.

31 December 1944

Enemy planes were over again and bombed Bastogne, about a mile from our front line positions. We sent out more patrols to tie-in more strongly with elements of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division, 35th Infantry Division and Combat Command "A". Some artillery fire landed in our areas. Our casualties were three (3) men; no vehicles.

1 January 1945

We continued our mission of keeping the route to Bastogne opened. The 6th Armored Division moved Northeast of our position to attack; their advance was very slight. Lutrebois, Southeast of us, was taken by the 35th Infantry Division, then retaken by the enemy at night. Some mortar fire landed in company "A" area. Fifteen (15) rounds of artillery fell on Homphe, Assenois and Burnon during the night. We were part of both the 8th and 3rd Corps during the day.

2 January 1945

We still protected the route to Bastogne. The situation was comparatively quiet. We were prepared for a counter-attack from the woods East of Lutrebois. Much movement was heard in the woods during the night but no counter-attack was in evidence.

3 January 1945

The 8th Tank Battalion was relieved from Combat Command "B" and assigned to Combat Command "A". Our company "C" was ready to take over from company "C" of the 35th Tank Battalion, however, they did not receive any order to move into their position as yet. About five (5) rounds of direct fire ricocheted into company "A" area late in the evening. Source seemed to be tank battle which was going on in the 6th Armored Division Sector.

4 January 1945

Company "C" of the 8th Tank Battalion was ordered to relieve company "C" of the 35th. Enemy counter-attacked at Monaville. We

- 3 -

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23 AUG 1945

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23 AUG 1945

Ltr, Hq, 8th Tank Bn, dated 16 Jan 1945 (Cont'd)

were ordered to stand-by to support 6th Armored Division or the 11th Armored Division. Nothing materialized. On this day we started to rotate two (2) crews from each company to be relieved from the front lines in order to get some rest.

5 January 1945

Company "A" moved to West of Marvie, tying in with the 6th Armored Division and 134th Infantry Regiment. Counter-attack was received 1/2 kilometer East of Lutrebois. Enemy was reported infiltrating within our lines, wearing American uniforms. Enemy activity was attempted East of Lutrebois. Combat Command "A" ordered 0500 "stand to" in the morning, to be ready to repulse suspected counter-attack. Nothing materialized.

6 January 1945

We continued to protect route to Bastogne and were prepared for any counter-attack from the East. No action during this day or night.

7 January 1945

prisoners of War reported that enemy would attack from the East between 0400 to 0500. We stood to until 0500 but there was no attack. The front was quiet and we still held our original line. The forward command post was moved to the vicinity of our "A" company. This included the Battalion Commanding Officer and S-3. No action during the night.

8 January 1945

The Battalion continued to hold line and keep routes South of Bastogne opened. Woods East of Lutrebois was still full of enemy and no attempt had been made to clean it out up to this time. No action during the night.

9 January 1945

One hundred (100) rounds of artillery was dropped on Assenois during the early morning. Sporadic artillery was dropped in near our front lines. More false PW reports stated enemy would attack from various directions. Nothing materialized. We were relieved from duty with Combat Command "A" and attached to Combat Command "R". No action during the night.

10 January 1945

Combat Command "A" and Combat Command "B" of the 4th Armored Division attacked near Bastogne. They met slight resistance during the day and advanced about two (2) kilometers. In the afternoon, the Division was ordered to disengage and be prepared to move out of the area.

11 January 1945

At 0730 we started to move to area South of Luxembourg city. We travelled from Assenois to Salvacourt, Arlon, Huncherange, Dudelange into Boust. The Battalion command post plus "A", "B" Assaults and Mortar platoons were billeted in Boust. Company "C" was billeted in Basseparthe and our Trains and personnel section were billeted in Soetrich. Total mileage, fifty-five (55) miles.

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23 AUG 1945

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Ltr, Hq, 8th Tank Bn, dated 16 Jan 1945 (cont'd)

12 January 1945

The Battalion was settled in billets. No definite enemy information in our sector. Our Division still was on the secret list. We started on maintenance of vehicles.

13 January 1945

For tactical reasons, the Battalion was ordered to move to Mondercange immediately at 1500. The Battalion closed in bivouac at 2000. Route included Hettange Grande, Canfen, Volmerange, Dudelange, Kayl, Esch and Mondercange. Total mileage, eighteen (18) miles.

14 January 1945

Battalion settled in new billets and continued with maintenance of vehicles.

15 January 1945

Battalion continuing its maintenance of vehicles and white-wash. Troop efficiency: Very good.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2.

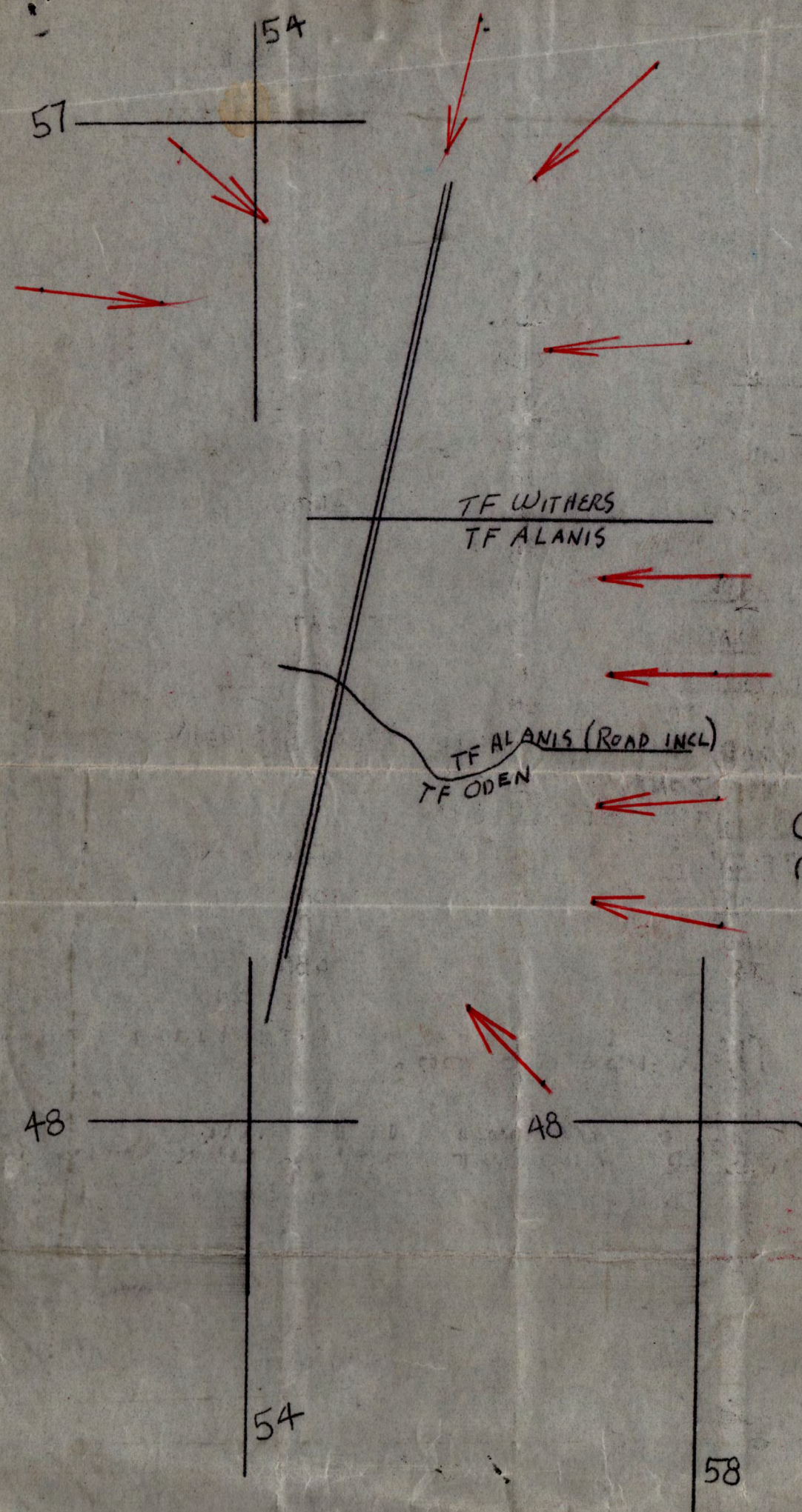
5 Incls:

- 1 - 19 Overlays
- 1 - '2 Operations Memo, Hq, CC "A"
- 1 - 1 G-3 Report, Hq, 101st Airborne Div, with overlay
- 1 - 1 Intelligence Summary, Hq, 4th AD
- 1 - 23 Unit Journal Sheets

- 5 -  
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~~SECRET~~ 23 AUG 1945

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Overlay: 1/50000  
Map: BASTOGNE

4 ARMD DIV

MURDOCK, FRANCE  
4 JAN 45

# OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM:

1. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY 3 TASK FORCES ARE SET UP AS FOLLOWS:

a. TF WITHERS: 8 TK BN, 10 INF BN (-B), PLAT/A/704.

MISSION: TO PREVENT ENEMY FROM CUTTING MAIN ROAD <sup>RUNNING</sup> SOUTH FROM BASTOGNE WITHIN ITS ZONE. RCH. POSITIONS AND PREPARE PLANS TO DEFEAT ENEMY ATTACK, ARMD. OR INF, FROM EAST, NE, N, NW, OR W.  
BOUNDARY: SEE OVERLAY.

b. TF ALANIS: 51 INF BN, A/35, PLAT/A/704.

MISSION: TO HOLD FROM PRESENT POSITIONS AND PREVENT ENEMY FROM CUTTING MAIN ROAD <sup>RUNNING</sup> SOUTH FROM BASTOGNE WITHIN ITS ZONE.

BOUNDARY: SEE OVERLAY

c. TF ODEN: 35 TK BN (-A), B/10, PLAT/A/704

MISSION: PREVENT ENEMY FROM CUTTING MAIN ROAD <sup>RUNNING</sup> SOUTH FROM BASTOGNE WITHIN ITS ZONE; TO FORM A MOBILE RESERVE VICINITY SAINLEZ, RCH. ROUTES AND PREPARE PLANS TO REPEL ENEMY ATTACK FROM NE, E, SE, FAMILIARIZING ALL UNITS WITH SAME.

BOUNDARY: SEE OVERLAY

2. TFCMDRS RENDER HOURLY REPORTS TO THIS Hqs. TURN IN OVERLAY OF TROOP DISPOSITIONS BY 041800.

3. A/24 UNDER CC CONTROL.

EARNST  
CMDR

MURDOCK  
S-3



G-3 Report

From: 25 2400 A

To : 26 2400 A

Hq. 101 AB Div

GPO 472, U. S. Army

26 2400 December 1944

No: 8

Maps: Belgium and N.E. France, sheets 106, 107, 121, 122 Scale 1/50,000 GS 654040.

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.

2. Location of Troops: See Overlay.

3. Information of Adjacent Units and Supporting Troops:

a. Advanced elements of CCR, 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division made contact with our outposts at 540558 at 261715 A.

b. No change in attached units.

c. Team Ryerson, CCB, 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division committed at 260718 A in sector 520585 to strengthen positions against enemy armor-infantry attack.

4. Weather and Visibility: Excellent

5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 327<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry repulsed enemy armor-infantry attack at 521572 at 260730 A.

b. Headquarters and Service Co, 326<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn repulsed enemy armor-infantry attack in vicinity of 515582 at 261330 A.

c. Close fighter-bomber support was continued throughout the period 260800 A - 261700 A.

d. The following message dated 25-December-1944 was received from 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army: "All ranks First Canadian Army here watched with admiration the magnificent manner in which their friends of 101<sup>st</sup> U.S. Airborne Division have fought it out with the enemy around Bastogne. Our high regards and congratulations."

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent

7. Results of Our Operations: Continued to maintain the defenses of Bastogne

8. This report will not be distributed below regiments and separate battalions. It will be destroyed within twenty-four (24) hours.



H.W. O. Kennard (sgt.)  
Lt. Colonel, GSC,  
Ac of S, G-3. R-

Distribution: CG, Asst CG, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, Sig O, 501, 502, 506,  
327, Dir Eny (10), 326 Engr, 8199, VIII Corps (2), CIB 10A,  
Hist 7, 70570, 4<sup>th</sup> and Dir.

Lt. Carr reported into Engineer C. P. at 0430,  
and was sent to this Hq. at 0445.

Capt. Follett











CANCELLED  
Downgraded Auth: TAG  
~~RESTRICTED~~  
23 AUG 1945  
HEADQUARTERS 8th TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U.S. ARMY

14 May 1945

Subject: After Action Report

To: Commanding General, 4th Armored Division

1. A negative report is hereby submitted for After Battle Report covering period 16 Jan to 21 Feb 1945.
2. This battalion did not partake in any action covering that period of time.

For the commanding officer.

*Augustus A. Storey, Jr.*  
Augustus A. Storey Jr.  
Captain Infantry  
Adjutant

604-69.2

~~RESTRICTED~~

4 JUL 1945

14375

141  
*[Signature]*



Initials *WCP* 3 Jan 45

# OPERATION MEMORANDUM -

2. New troop list per Hqs 4th Armd Div now effective:

RES COMD

704 (-A.B plus Plat C)

489 (-A, B, C, plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  D)

24 (-A and B 995 Atchd)

1947 (1948) and 1948 (1949) seasons.

100

DIV TRAINS

25 (ENC) Plst C 704 Atchd)

29 (40), Flac 6 704 22nd,  
Ho Dix Arty

AG DIV 213.

5/12/00

10

- d. 53rd Inf remain in CC "A" Cnd Net until relieved from area.

**OFFICIAL:**

2-3

**SECRET**

14cl #2



8 TK

Hq CC "A" 4th AD  
Hompres, Belgium  
9 January 1945

SECRET

Auths CC, CC "A"  
Initials WEP 3 Jan 45

OPERATION MEMORANDUM --

1. CC "B" having received a separate mission, CC "A" has mission of blocking EAST flank of BASTOGNE Corridor from 1st AB Div on North to South, keeping main road BASTOGNE to MARTELANGE open, and maintaining contact with 35 Div on our right.

2. New troop list per Hqs 4th Arm Div now effective:

Bn	CC "A"	CC "B"	RES COMB
	8	53	704 (-A, B plus Plat C)
	35	37	489 (-A, B, C, plus 1 D)
	10	0/25	24 (-A and B 995 Atchd)
	51	22	
	94	B/704	
	66	B/24	
	A/24	A/489	DIV TRAINS
	A/704	B/46	25 (-G) Plat C 704 Atchd)
	B/489	B/126	Hq Div Arty.
	A/46		
	A/126		

3. Upon order this Hqs.:

a. C/10 and C/35 will move from present positions to an easy area 1 Km N of SAKMEL and East of Main Hwy where it will constitute a mobile reserve under command of Lt. Col. Oden. Col. Oden prepare plans to counterattack to NE, E, and SE; Co. Cadres run routes.

b. 8 Tk move one medium Co. to replace C/35, just South of REMDIFOSSE and East of Hwy. 10th Inf move one platoon to outpost this Co.

c. Plat. C/51 now outposting B/35 will revert to Co. control. Plat A/24 now outposting C/35 reverts to Co. Control under CC "A" Comd.

4. Plat A/704 loaned to 137th Inf reverts back to CC "A" control immediately, is stood to 8th Tk Bn, and will go into position under their direction.

5. Major Irzyk will command all troops North of 51st Inf and be responsible for coordinating the defense of the sector.

6. a. New units establish Ln immediately and check into CC "A" radio nets.

b. Units make hourly reports to this Hqs by radio.

c. Ln Officers keep this Hqs constantly informed of their troop locations.

d. 53rd Inf remain in CC "A" Comd Net until relieved from area.

CANCELLED

HARVEST  
COMDG

OFFICIAL: Winters, Capt AGO

15 May 46

MURDOCK  
B-3

1 MAY 46

14CL H 2



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

V-46 31 • 8-27-64 TKM •  
Operations memos

CCA

S-3 Report, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div  
Intelligence Summary, Hq 4<sup>th</sup> A.D.

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL

DOWNING AND COMPANY

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SECRET 23 AUG 1945

HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

2 March 1945.

SUBJECT: After-Battle Report.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

This report covers the period of actual operations from February 22 - 28, 1945:

Thursday, Feb. 22, 1945

Orders for the movement of this Battalion were received at 0200 from the Battalion Liaison Officer. The column was formed at 0600, the march order being Reconnaissance Platoon, "A" Co, Battalion Headquarters, Assault Gun Platoon, Mortar Platoon, "D" Co, "B" Co, "C" Co, and "A" Trains. The 51st Armored Infantry Battalion preceded our Battalion in the Combat Command "B" march order. The route followed included Mondercange, Pontpierre, Leudelange, Bertrange, Strassen, Namer, Fels, Ernisdorf, Reisdorf, Dillingen where we crossed the Sauer River and went into an assembly area just South of Geichlingen, Germany, with the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion. Company "B" was attached to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion and assembled East of Obersgegen. The remainder of the Battalion assembled in Korperich, with the "A" Trains stopping in Niedersgegen. Battalion closed in area at 1530. Distance covered: 35 miles. Radios were silent up to this time. No action yet.

Friday, Feb. 23, 1945

Our attack was launched at 0001 led by the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion with "A" Company. The 10th Armored Infantry Battalion and Company "B" followed the leading elements. Our first objective was Sinsfelt and the bridge over the Enz River. The leading troops reached their line of departure by first light at the crossroad just West of Niedergeckler. By noon the leading elements reached Niedergeckler after a terrific battle. While they were forced to withdraw slightly to the surrounding high ground "A" Company destroyed two (2) enemy tanks. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire were encountered. Before a coordinated attack with the 53rd and 10th Armored Infantry Battalions and "A" and "B" Companies was launched at 1600, "A" Company knocked out eight (8) more tanks in Niedergeckler. By 1800 our troops had cleared Niedergeckler and Sinsfelt and captured the bridge across the Enz intact. In addition to enemy tanks our troops accounted for one (1) truck, motor cycle, sixty (60) killed and two hundred (200) captured.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1945

Troops were reshuffled with the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion attached to our Unit, minus our "B" Company. "B" Company was attached to the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion. "B" Company was reverted to our control after being committed a couple hours, so the Battalion was again intact.

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23 AUG 1945

23-28  
Feb  
45

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S E C R E T 23 AUG 1945

Ltr Hq, 8th Tank Bn, dated 2 Mar '45 (Cont'd)

We were all assembled in the vicinity of Sinsfelt. At 1345, our attack to the East proceeded. One of our tanks were immobilized by mines. "B" Company reached the vicinity of Outscheid and then Company "C" proceeded to Neupaus against light opposition. "A" Company took the high ground South of Brimingen. They received heavy artillery fire and direct tank fire. We lost one (1) tank in this battle. By evening Brimingen was completely cleared by the Infantry. About eighty (80) enemy had been captured.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1945

The 8th Tank Battalion and 10th Armored Infantry Battalion jumped off at first light for Baustert. We received considerable fire from the woods Southwest of Brimingen. Our artillery dispersed all enemy threats in this area. By 1030, Baustert was cleared. At 1200 we changed to Combat Command "A", with the objective of taking Feilsdorf, Brecht and the bridge at Brecht. We cleared Feilsdorf but the bridge at Brecht was blown. We were held up for the night West of the Prum River. We captured one (1) self-propelled 75mm Gun intact, one (1) MK IV tank destroyed, one (1) truck destroyed, forty (40) PW's, twenty (20) killed.

Monday, Feb. 26, 1945

We were ordered to cross the river at Oberweiss South of Brecht where a Bailey bridge was being built. The 10th Armored Infantry Battalion proceeded across the Prum on foot bridges towards Rittersdorf to secure that ground which was previously cleared by Combat Command "B" the preceeding day. It was necessary for Engineers to fill in craters and remove road blocks along the way. The bridge was completed at 1300. The leading tank Company, "C" Company, crossed the Nims River at Rittersdorf and defended East of the town. The rest of the Battalion stayed in position on the West of the Nims. No enemy action this date.

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1945

The rest of our combat elements were moved East of the Nims. "A" Company and 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion attacked and cleared Matzen Northeast of Bitburg. "B" and "C" remained in position North of Bitburg waiting for the town to be taken by the Fifth Infantry. "A" Company lost one (1) tank by enemy fire and destroyed two (2) enemy tanks. "A" Company continued to support the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion in and around Matzen. Occasional artillery fire fell and some direct fire was observed. We sent a patrol Southwest of Bitburg to contact the 10th Regiment of the 5th Division at Ingendorf. They made contact and brought back all 5th Infantry positions.

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1945

Early this morning a light tank patrol was sent into Bitburg to contact the 5th Division. This contact was made only after the patrol captured twenty-one (21) PW's. We exchanged plans and the 5th Infantry

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S E C R E T  
- 2 - 23 AUG 1945

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~~SECRET~~ 23 AUG 1945

Ltr, Hq, 8th Tank Bn, dated 2 Mar '45 (Cont'd)

pushed on toward the Kyll into our sector. We assembled the entire Battalion in an area 1 1/2 kilometers East of Rittersdorf, except "A" Company which still supported the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion in Matzen. Some artillery fell in our area, but no other enemy action was noted. This completes the first phase of our operations to the Kyll River. No further plans are disclosed at this time.

For the Battalion Commander:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2.

Incls 2:  
4-Overlays  
4-Journal Sheets

*604-TK-3.6  
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Downgraded Auth: TAG *Jan*  
~~SECRET~~ 23 AUG 1945



HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

CJS/cac

6 April 1945.

*Mar 45*  
SUBJECT: After Action Report.

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

Following is the "After Action Report" as recorded by the S-2 Section of this organization and includes period 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945:

1 March 1945

After our push through the Siegfried defenses to the West bank of the Kyll we assembled the whole Battalion 1 1/2 kilometers East of Rittersdorf where our C.P. was located. Here we awaited orders to move to the next barrier, the Rhine River. All quiet on our front today.

2 March 1945

Received orders to move Companies "B", "C", "D", Assault and Mortar Platoons to line Fliessem-Matzen along Kyll River. Move was completed by 2030. Enemy shelled Fliessem spasmodically.

3 March 1945

Our mission was to deflect enemy attention from the bridgehead operation of the 5th Infantry Division on our right flank. Bridgehead began at 2300. Spasmodic artillery fell on our positions.

4 March 1945

Moved all Companies to assembly area South of Bitburg starting at 0100. Received orders late in afternoon to move at 0730 next morning toward Coblenz. Advance Guard was under command of Major Diuguid, S-3, and consisted of C/8, C/53, Pl/704, Pl/C/24, C/94, A/25.

5 March 1945

We had a hard fight to clear Gindorf and reach high ground to the East and North of Oberkail. C/8 lost two (2) tanks on edge of town to Bazooka fire. Roads were secondary and partially impassable. Advance was slow but thorough.

6 March 1945

We were ordered to remain in place and follow CC "B" whose route included an excellent road network and good hard surface. We received Rocket concentrations and moved out at 1100. We followed CC "B" to Oberstadt-feld, then branched off to take Udersdorf, Uebergegen, Weirsbach and Bridge. Losses for day: One (1) tank burned. We took 20-25 PW's.

7 March 1945

Ordered to move Advance Guard at 0630 towards Ullmen. We suffered no losses, accounted for 50-60 PW's. Reached Ullmen 1030 and contacted CC "B" column which was using our route. Ordered at 1400 to follow CC "B" and occupy towns of Mickelfeld, Waldorferhof, Karmelerlegerhof and hold high ground



Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 6 April 1945 (Cont'd)

to South and South-East of Ochtendung. Mission accomplished by 2300.

8 March 1945

This morning at 0800 we moved on to take Passenheim against light resistance. Took 48 PW's. Cleared town by 1040. Left to take Mulheim and Karlich at 1300. Received direct fire from both towns, lost three (3) tanks. Took about 50 PW's. B/8 and B/53 was taking Rude-nach on our right at the same time. Our Psychological Warfare Public Address System was very successful in bringing out PW's and organizing Military Government in the towns. We occupied good ground North of Karlich and Mulheim.

9 March 1945

Orders issued at 0100 to drive for Railroad Bridge at Urmitz were changed at 0500, and we continued to hold what we had. We observed enemy columns along the River Road, adjusted Artillery and broke them up with TOT's. Air reported bridge blown at 0930. At 1300 we initiated patrols with two (2) Tank Platoons from "A" and "C" Companies. Roads along the river were jammed with enemy equipment and PW's. We captured about 400 enemy, and the following equipment was destroyed by us: 3 Mark IV's, 36 AA AT 88MM Guns, 22 - 88 MM Guns, 10 - 105 MM Guns, 69 - 20 MM AA Guns, 137 Trucks, 38 Staff Cars, 25 H/Tracks, 2 A/C, 17 Motorcycles, 10,000 Rounds 88 MM Ammo. 4,000 Rounds 20 MM Ammo. and 20 Bazookas, 13-120 MM Guns and numerous Small Arms destroyed. Enemy vehicles and men were on the Railroad Bridge when the enemy blew it.

10 March 1945

In the morning C/8 and C/53 took a fast reconnaissance through the river towns Urmitz, Kaltenengers, St. Sebastain, Kesselheim, Lutzel, overlooking Coblenz. All three bridges across the Moselle into Coblenz were blown. We continued our reconnaissance South along the River to take Guls, and Winingen. We took 27 PW's, saw small amount of activity on other side of River. Ordered to return to Mulheim-Karlich at 1800 after our mission was completed. A/8 and A/53 was ordered at 2200 to an area South-East of Ochtendung to protect enemy threat across Moselle. Captain Tuszynski, A-3, was the Task Force Commander. They closed in bivouac by daylight. B/8 remained with the bulk of the 53rd Infantry on our right flank. No action encountered by these units. PW's still pouring in.

11 March 1945

Not much action today. "D" Company was relieved from screening to the South of the 53rd Infantry and returned in time to pull outpost duty at Urmitz and St. Sebastain. All bridges across the Rhine and Moselle in our sector are definitely out. Outpost reported hearing 2 or 3 Tanks running on other side of River, switch car was heard running, some Small Arms was fired and enemy flares observed. The outpost was called in during the daylight.



Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 6 April 1945 (Cont'd)

12 March 1945

No action again today. Our patrols continued, nothing to report. Continued to set up Military Government in Mulheim.

13 March 1945

Relieved today by 6th Cavalry. Awaiting orders to move to new assembly area. No action or casualties today.

14 March 1945

Orders received today to move to new assembly area East of Polsch. C.P. set up in Kaan overnight. Closed into new area at 1500. Orders received to move out at 0630 to cross Moselle and proceed to high ground East of Bad Kreuznach. 5th and 90th Infantry has established good bridgehead across Moselle. H-Hour postponed until 1100. No action yet.

15 March 1945

Order of March follows: A/25, Plt/B/704, Plt/C/24, D/8 (-1 Plt), B/8, B/53, Hq Command Group 8/53. Assault/8, Plt/C/24, B/94, C/8, C/53, 94 (-), Mortar Plt/8, Plt/D/8, Rcn/8, Hq & Hq. Company 53/8, C/24(-), B/704(-), Hq/CC "A", B/489(-), Hq. 177 Group, 276 FA, 974 FA, A/8, A/53, Section/995, A/46, "A"/Trains. D/8 crossed I.P. 1056. Forward elements reached crossroads East of Liesenfeld against slight resistance. We knocked out two (2) AT Guns and several vehicles. No losses ourselves.

16 March 1945

Moved out for objective at 0625. "A" Company was leading column until we reached Rheinbollen where we were held up for two hours by Bazooka fire. Lost two (2) Light Tanks. A/8 and A/53 were left behind to clean up town. C/8 led out around town, column followed. Light resistance met at Waldhilsheim. One (1) Medium Tank lost to Bazooka fire. We pushed on to the bridge at Langenlonsheim. The bridge was blown at 1830. We outposted and consolidated our positions. No enemy resistance encountered at this point. Enemy casualties include: 1 - 75 MM Gun, 1 - 88 MM AA AT Gun, 3 Prime Movers, 8 Trucks, 1 Motorcycle. Engineers are checking bridge site for possible location of Engineer Bridge Project.

17 March 1945

Sent out early morning patrols consisting of Tank platoons North to Dorsheim and South to Pretzenheim. No enemy activity. Patrols completed by 1000. B/8 detailed to clean up Supply Route to Simmern. At 1100 we started to cross wooden bridge at Pretzenheim. Second Tank to cross fell through bridge. We continued crossing by Fording. "A" Company led across, with "D" Company and "C" Company following. "A" Company took Ippesheim, Biebelshheim and Zotzenheim taking high ground overlooking Sprendlingen. "C" Company took Planig and Bosenheim. "B" Company came up to occupy cross-roads West of Sprendlingen. Enemy casualties: 13 Trucks, 4 - 88 MM Guns, 10 killed, 12 PW's.

18 March 1945

"A" Company moved out at 0635 to take Sprendlingen. No opposition. 8 PW's taken. "B" Company moved to take Gau-Bickelheim. No opposition.



Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 6 April 1945 (Cont'd)

"C" Company covered our Battalion right flank which was threatened with a reported fifteen (15) enemy Tanks. Our P-47's took care of the threat by knocking out most of them. "C" Company moved on St. Johann where it met Small Arms and much Bazooka fire. "C" Company lost five (5) Tanks, knocked out 9 - 20 MM AA Guns and many personnel. "B" Company went through "C" Company during the night to take Wolfsheim without opposition. Battalion held all surrounding high ground.

19 March 1945

"A" Company moved up to take Vendersheim, Worrstadt, Ensheim. "B" Company took Sulzheim, Wallertheim, Schimsheim, Rommersheim. "C" Company took Spiesheim. Some small arms and Bazooka fire. No Tanks lost. About 50 PW's taken. "A" Company knocked out H/Track full of enemy after dark. Six (6) enemy killed. Otherwise night was quiet.

20 March 1945

"A" Company moved out at first light and took Albig against no opposition. Enemy Tank tracks observed in town, reported that enemy pulled out the night before. "D" Company continued to screen to the South. Air knocked out several enemy columns directly South and East of us. "A" Company went on to take Gau-Heppersheim. "B" Company took Westhofen against little enemy resistance. "C" Company took Abenheim, no resistance. "A" Company attacked Herrnsheim and cleared it. Received orders at 1715 to by-pass everything and proceed to river where enemy column is moving South into Worms. A/8 and C/8 located North of Herrnsheim during night. Knocked out one (1) S.P. B/8 took Osthoffen to the North.

21 March 1945

Twenty-two (22) enemy planes attacked our positions early in the morning. One casualty. Ordered to make march on Gau-Odernheim and Oppenheim. Order of March: "D", "A", "B", "Assault", "Bn Hq", "Mtrs." C/8 was attached to 53rd column to the North. We marched through Hessloch, Dittlesheim, Dolgesheim, Uelversheim, Weinolsheim, Dalheim, Dienheim. No opposition. Assault Gun Platoon knocked out five (5) barges on Rhine River.

22 March 1945

C/8 was relieved during night at Oppenheim. Rest of Battalion relieved this morning. We moved to assembly area at Pfaffen-Schwabenheim. Closed in area at 1600. Cleanliness of Personnel, Personal Equipment and Maintenance stressed in meeting tonight.

23 March 1945

Maintenance, showers and recreation carried out according to schedule. Orders received late in afternoon to move tomorrow across the Rhine River at Oppenheim.



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Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 6 April 1945 (Cont'd)

24 March 1945

Head of column crossed I.P. East of Gau-Bickelheim at 0730. March Order consists of A/25, Fl/B/704, D/8, Fl/B/704, Cmd 8 and 53, Fl/C/24, A/8, A/53, 94 FA, C/8, C/53, Hq/53 and 8, C/24 (-1 Fl), Hq CCA, 276 FA, 179 FA, A/46, A/126, "A" Trns, 1/B/704. Started to cross pontoon bridge North of Oppenheim 0900. No enemy activity until we approached Grumstadt. Direct fire, artillery and small arms encountered. We pushed through knocking out all resistance, and continuing through Eschollbrucken, Hahn, Pfungstadt, Eberstadt, NDR. Ramstadt, Ober Ramstadt and the high ground North East. Very little resistance.

25 March 1945

Moved out early this morning, cleared Rossdorf, Gunderhausen, Gr. Zimmern by 0915. Took some prisoners. Resistance light.

26 March 1945

"D" Company attached to 53rd Infantry Battalion to support bridgehead operations across Main River. Rest of Battalion outposting Hainstadt, Seligenstadt and Zellhausen. Received some sporadic artillery and small arms fire. PW's still pouring in.

27 March 1945

Bridgehead was established at Klein Auheim. We went across in order: "D" Co, "A", "C", "E", "Bn Hq." Gross Auheim on other side of river was cleaned up and the Battalion was assembled to continue its next mission.

28 March 1945

Column formed at 0900 with objective of Giessen, later changed to Grunberg. Column passed through Hanau which was not yet clear. Our column cleared Rossdorf, Ostheim, Eichen, Hochst, Altenstadt, Stammheim, Staden, Leidhecken, Bingenheim, Gettenau, Schzell, Berstadt, Hunge, Nonnenroth, Rothges, Grunberg against light bazooka and small arms fire.

29 March 1945

New order and mission of Grossenluder given. Battalion moved out in same order except "D" Co lead the column. The column passed through and cleared Weickartshain, Lardenbach, Sellnrod, Wonnfeld, Bobenhausen, Ulricstein, Rebgeshain, Engelrod, Horgenau, Herbststein, Altenschlirf, Stockhausen, Kleinluder, Grossenluder. Slight resistance encountered. Lost one light tank by bazooka fire. Several hundred PW's taken.

30 March 1945

Continued advance after 1300. "D" Company continued leading Battalion. The following towns were taken along route: Eichenau, Bad Salzchlirf, Uetzhausen, NDR.Stellenschlitz, Hutzdorf, Langenschwarz, Wehrda, Rhina, Newkirchen, Melsenbach, Odensachsen, Sieglos, Eitra, Bodes, Fishbach, Erdmannroda, Wustfeld, Konrode, Schenlengsfeld, Hillmes, Millartshausen, Gethsemane, Ausbach. No appreciable enemy opposition. During our advance "C" Company lost two tanks to bazooka fire by enemy infiltrating during night.

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Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 6 April 1945 (Cont')

31 March 1945

Battalion on one hour alert status during early morning. At 1300 received orders to move out along axis of advance. "A" Company led Battalion clearing Heimbaldshsm, Wolfershausen, Widdershausen, Daukmarshausen. Enemy resistance during day consisted of direct, artillery, bazooka and small arms fire. Large ammunition dump destroyed North of Wolfershausen. Column was split until fire died down. We destroyed 3 enemy tanks, 2 AT guns and captured 130 PW'S during day's operations. We are 190 miles from Berlin today.

After Action Items, Month of March, 1945:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Overlays	30
Field Orders	6
March Orders	5
After Action Report	5 copies
Unit Journal Log	Complete

For the Battalion Commander:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER,  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2.



**SECRET**

HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

CJS/ig

9 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

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

Following is the "After Action Report" as recorded by the S-2 Section of this organization and includes period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945:

1 April 1945

Battalion moved out with objective of Gotha at 0530. Company "B" was attached to 53rd Infantry column. Company "A" led our column. Made contact with CCB column at Obersuhl. Column continued through Untersuhl, Gerstungen, Gerstadt, Wommen. Made contact with enemy at Herleshausen where Company "A" knocked out 4 tanks, 3 armored cars and killed several dismounted enemy. This town had an ordnance repair shop with much material left behind. Bridges continued to be blown along route over Werra River. One bridge was believed still in one kilometer north of Horshel. CCB had priority in capturing the bridge. When they arrived there it had just been blown, and they were receiving enemy tank fire from across the river. Entire Combat Command "A" was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Willershausen until engineers could construct bridge. Company "B" was still attached to 53rd Infantry in establishing a bridgehead for this operation.

2 April 1945

At least 15 enemy planes bombed and strafed our positions. Bridge was ready late in afternoon and Battalion proceeded to cross. We assembled on high ground NE of Spichra.

3 April 1945

At 0800 the Battalion minus "B" Company and 1 platoon "D" Company moved out from vicinity Spichra and advanced against light resistance through Krauthausen, Madelungen, Neukirchen to high ground north and northeast of Eisenach. Encountered much enemy bazooka fire from dug in positions. Column continued with "A" Company and "A" Company 53rd Infantry leading. They cleared Stockhausen, Grossenlupnitz and went on to Wenigenlupnitz where small arms, bazooka and some 20mm fire was encountered. After clearing this town the column continued through Melborn, Hastrungsfeld and Sattelstadt. Bazooka, and small arms encountered at Sattelstadt. Several armored cars were knocked out and flat cars with equipment were captured in tact. Battalion continued east on autobahn, but was halted just north of Leina by blown overpass. When column halted the head received heavy AT fire from at least two batteries of 88's. When the fire had halted we had lost 6 tanks, 1 assault gun, 2 Infantry H/Ts and two peeps. Enemy guns were taken under fire and with the Air Corps accounted for all enemy guns. Battalion assembled and reorganized in the vicinity of Horselgau.

4 April 1945

Late in morning we were ordered to move out through Gotha which had been declared an open city because of the hospitals being in the

CLASSIFICATION

**CANCELLED**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
HARRY J. SUFFIN, Capt a G.S.  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 29 Jan 1946

**SECRET**

SEP 11 1945

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Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 9 May 1945 (Cont'd)

city. The 53rd Infantry with our "B" Company continued on to attack Ohrdruff while we fought our way to Hohenkirchen, Petriroda, northwest of Ohrdruff. 53rd Infantry cleared Ohrdruff and both columns continued to outpost positions.

5 April 1945 to 10 April 1945

Battalion remained in position during this time and continued with maintenance of vehicles and personal equipment.

11 April 1945

Ordered to continue our attack northeast. We by-passed Erfurt to the south while it was being attacked by the 80th Infantry. We continued parallel to the autobahn and received heavy artillery fire as we approached Ossmaritz. Our artillery and air support neutralized these positions. Travelled 43 miles today.

12 April 1945

Bridge at Maua was being built during the morning. The 51st Infantry made the bridgehead and we moved across early in the afternoon. Much bazooka and small arms fire was encountered by our forces on the other side of the river. Our objective was changed to Bobeck, further north. It was anticipated that CCB might need our help but it never materialized. Route through woods was long and treacherous. We reached our objective by 2200.

13 April 1945

The Battalion moved out at 0700 with "A" Company leading the column. We continued moving east on the Autobahn against slight and scattered resistance. We captured two bridges over the autobahn in tact before the enemy could destroy them, one of them over the important Zwick-Mulde Canal. These bridges were defended by bazooka men. We lost one light tank from bazooka fire, and another medium by an HE hit on the back deck. We reached the area just north of Oberwinkel. No enemy action there. One German plane flew over area.

14 April 1945

Ordered to move a little farther east to probe the enemy positions. Received artillery fire from one gun on the road. No casualties. We cleared Hohenstein and Wustenbrand of bazookas and small arms. We were ordered by SHAEF to hold up here just west of Chemnitz. We liberated several thousand allied PW's from hospitals and camps. Several important factories and warehouses were captured in this operation. Numerous passenger, flat cars and enemy vehicles captured in tact. We outposted positions and awaited further orders.

15 April 1945

No movement orders today except for our reconnaissance platoon to probe as far as Siegmars. No opposition in Mittlebach, Oberlungwitz, and Luana. As Recon entered Siegmars they were fired upon by a bazooka. They withdrew from the town and requested artillery fire on the town. After several battalions of medium artillery had fallen on the town several town officials visited our CP declaring Siegmars an open city. We returned in the afternoon and found the town

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Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 9 May 1945 (Cont'd)

clear after picking up two PW's. 80th Infantry is coming up to take over part of our sector, the southern part.

16 April 1945 to 19 April 1945

No activity. Battalion relieved by 80th Infantry. We remained in present area around Hohenstein and Wustenbrand doing maintenance and taking advantage of recreational facilities.

20 April 1945

Received orders to move back to an area around Glauchau. Moved to the vicinity of Gesau in the morning.

21 April 1945 to 23 April 1945

No activity. Awaiting orders. Maintenance continues.

24 April 1945

Alerted to move south to vicinity Bayreuth. Reason undetermined. March uneventful. Pulled into our area around Bindlach after midnight.

25 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

All companies were settled in area; no orders issued concerning immediate movement. Companies continued maintenance after this 110 mile march. No action during this period.

After Action Items, Month of April, 1945:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unit Log	Complete
Overlays	13
Field Orders	5
Unnumbered Memorandum	1
March Orders	2
Messages	2
After Action Report	5 copies

For the Commanding Officer:

6 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Unit Log
- Incl #2 - Overlays
- Incl #3 - Field Orders
- Incl #4 - Unnumbered Memorandum
- Incl #5 - March Orders
- Incl #6 - Messages

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2

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HEADQUARTERS 8TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 254, U. S. Army

CJS/1g

12 June 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Following is the "After Action Report" as recorded by the S-2 Section of this organization and includes period 1 May 1945 to 7 May 1945:

1 May 1945

Battalion is still reorganizing at Bindlach vicinity of Bayreuth. We are part of Reserve Command together with 53rd Armd Inf. Bn and 22nd Armd FA Bn. Received orders to be ready to move tomorrow to vicinity of Regen.

2 May 1945

Battalion moved out about 1100 with Command Section leading followed by "A", "B", "C", "D", Serv Co's. Used autobahn most of way, reached Schwandorf at dark. Went into an assembly area for the night. CC "R" to cross I.P. at 0700 tomorrow.

3 May 1945

Our mission and purpose was not clear as we continued our march to the Southeast. Marched through Cham, Regen, Deggendorf, and C.P. set up at Schaufling.

4 May 1945

No action today. Received tentative mission of marching on Prague and tentative route running East and North. Division is in Corps Reserve, awaiting movement orders.

5 May 1945

11th Panzer Division is moving into our assembly area as a surrendered unit. None of Division is moving today. Plan to move tomorrow. We are still in CC "R" to follow CC "A" in column. Our march order will lead off with "D" Co. into Czechoslovakia. Head of column to move out at 0600.

6 May 1945

Moved out promptly, passed through Freyung, Winterberg and assembled around Wolin without opposition. Ordered to hold up and await orders.

7 May 1945

Unofficial news broadcasts state that the German army has surrendered unconditionally to United States, England and Russia. "D" Co. continued to clear out towns vicinity of Cestiz. Very little opposition. Czech patriots helped our missions considerably with reliable information and physical aid.

At 1500 SHAEF announced officially hostilities would cease at 0100 on 9 May 1945. We took up defensive positions and waited in place. No opposition encountered.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

**CANCELLED**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFYING COMMITTEE

17 June 1945



~~SECRET~~  
(Ltr. Hq. 8th Tank Bn., dated 12 June 1945 cont'd)

After Action Items, Month of May, 1945:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Overlays	4
Field Orders	1

For the Commanding Officer:

*Charles J. Stauber*  
CHARLES J. STAUBER  
Captain, Infantry,  
S-2