

HEADQUARTERS, 23RD ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION
APO 253 U S Army

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Auth: CG 3d A.D.
Date: 1 May 1945
Init: *[Signature]*

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for the Month of April 1945.

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

A. Original Unit - Twenty-third Armored Engineer Battalion.

B. Changes in Organization - Company A attached to CCA from 1 April to 25 April, remainder of period under Battalion control; Company B attached to CCB from 1 April to 17 April, remainder of period under Battalion control; Company C attached to CC "Howze" from 1 April to 25 April, remainder of period under Battalion control; Company D under Battalion control from 1 April to 17 and 24 April to end of period. Attached to CCB from 17 April to 24 April. Reconnaissance Platoon of Headquarters Company attached to 23rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion from 1 April to 25 April, remainder of period under Battalion control; all others remained under Battalion control throughout the period.

C. Strength:

| | Officers | W.O. | S.M. |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| At the beginning of period | 64 | 1 | 1112 |
| At the end of period | 39 | 1 | 1008 |
| | <u>25</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>104</u> |

D. Stations:

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>COORDINATES</u> | <u>ARRIVED</u> | <u>DEPARTED</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| (In field), Germany | 8724361 | 30 March 45 | 1 April 45 |
| Etteln, Germany | 8712365 | 1 April 45 | 2 April 45 |
| Nordborchen, Germany | 8681428 | 2 April 45 | 6 April 45 |
| Brakel, Germany | 8897478 | 6 April 45 | 9 April 45 |
| Loddingen, Germany | 0415552 | 9 April 45 | 10 April 45 |
| Werningerode, Germany | 0911262 | 10 April 45 | 12 April 45 |
| Sangerhausen, Germany | 0475251 | 12 April 45 | 13 April 45 |
| Friedeburg, Germany | 0776439 | 13 April 45 | 14 April 45 |
| Tornau, Germany | 0070558 | 14 April 45 | 24 April 45 |
| Sangerhausen, Germany | 0476257 | 24 April 45 | |

E. Marches - does not apply.

F. Campaigns - Germany

G. Battles - See Narrative Report, Appendix #1.

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H. Throughout the period, officers commanding units of this battalion were:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Commanding Officer | Lt. Col. L. G. FOSTER |
| Headquarters Company | Capt. JOHN W. PHILLIPS |
| Company A | Capt. GEORGE F. VILA |
| Company B | Capt. GEORGE H. O'BRIEN |
| Company C | Capt. RALPH E. NEPLUGH |
| Company D | Capt. ROY DUNBIN |
| Company E | Capt. CARL E. ROTHROCK |
| | 1st Lt. ROY B. GROBE |

I. Losses in Action:

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Pfc | Breese, Charles | 2 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Sieh, John C. | 6 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Fogarty, Donald E. | 7 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Hoffron, Patrick W. | 7 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Hausenholder, Albert L. | 8 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Rodriguez, Rogelio R. | 12 April 1945 |
| S/Sgt | Drapak, Edward S. | 14 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Callahan, Joseph E. | 14 April 1945 |
| Cpl | Falls, Max E. | 14 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Bornemann, Albert L. Jr. | 14 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Peterson, Lloyd M. | 14 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Smith, Leo L. | 15 April 1945 |
| S/Sgt | Ernst, Hubert C. | 15 April 1945 |
| 1st Lt | Davis, Harold H. | 15 April 1945 |
| 1st Lt | Tovey, Rex W. | 15 April 1945 |
| 2d Lt | Hempagan, Edwin C. | 15 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Jantac, Anthony V. | 16 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Scally, Marvin E. | 16 April 1945 |
| Capt | Hrous, Chris J. | 17 April 1945 |
| Capt | Rothrock, Carl E. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Knezevich, Eli | 17 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Mohr, Lloyd C. | 17 April 1945 |
| Sgt | Lowman, Floyd C. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Luedtke, Frank E. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Spohnholz, Frank W. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Bergstrom, Carl E. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Johnson, Carl L. | 17 April 1945 |
| S/Sgt | Nielsen, Norman H. | 17 April 1945 |
| S/Sgt | Campbell, Phil C. | 17 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Kellerman, Robert W. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Wichman, Henry F. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Contreras, Richard E. | 17 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Schimmer, Alfred J. | 18 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Blake, Norbert G. | 18 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Kent, Frank | 18 April 1945 |
| 1st Lt | Lutz, Charles E. | 19 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Williams, Dennis | 21 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Ross, Morris C. | 21 April 1945 |
| Sgt | Schultz, Joseph F. | 22 April 1945 |

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Pfc | Medlin, Jennie B. | 22 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Stacker, David B. | 23 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Sidlinger, Hrein E. | 23 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Croisdale, Joseph D. | 23 April 1945 |
| Tec 4 | Tomc, Lloyd E. | 23 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Primiano, James B. | 23 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Blackburn, George E. | 23 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Alexander, Adolph D. | 23 April 1945 |
| Pvt | Feasler, Edward V. | 23 April 1945 |

f. Awards:

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>GO</u> | <u>HEADQUARTERS</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
| <u>SILVER STAR</u> | | | | |
| S/Sgt | Nielson, Norman H. | 43 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 6 April 1945 |
| S/Sgt | Williams, Peter H. | 43 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 6 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Vernilyea, Robert E. | 43 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 6 April 1945 |
| Tec 5 | Wasson, Victor L. | 43 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 6 April 1945 |
| 1st Lt | Smith, Lloyd E. | 50 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 26 April 1945 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----|----------------|--------------|
| <u>BRONZE STAR</u> | | | | |
| Sgt | Kerr, Clifton E. | 44 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 7 April 1945 |
| Cpl | Japp, Leroy L. | 44 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 7 April 1945 |
| Cpl | Miller, Carl | 44 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 7 April 1945 |
| Cpl | Prillaman, Luther A. | 44 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 7 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Ahlgron, Albert A. | 44 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 7 April 1945 |
| Pfc | Hardy, Hilbert G. | 44 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 7 April 1945 |

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR

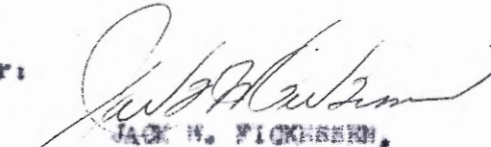
| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----|----------------|--------------|
| Sgt | Neeks, Walter | 43 | Hq 3d Armd Div | 6 April 1945 |
|-----|---------------|----|----------------|--------------|

K. Photographs - none available.

L. Inclosures - Appendix #1 and #2.

M. Maps: G.S.G.C. 4416, Sheets Q3, P3, Q4, Q5, Q6, P6.

For the Commanding Officer:


 JACK W. FICKESER,
 Major, 23d Armd Engr Bn.,
 Executive Officer.

Appendix #1. After Action Report for the month of April 1945.

Narrative Report of Operations of the Battalion throughout the period.

The Third Armored Division continued its attack to seize Paderborn (D7047) and contact the Ninth U.S. Army, contact being made at Lippstadt (D4262). On 5 April the Division attacked East to secure objectives on the Weser River. Craters, abatis mines and blown bridges slowed the advance. All bridges on Weser River found blown. On 9 April the Division crossed the Weser and continued the attack to the East, encountering blown bridges and hasty craters along the routes of advance. On 13 April the Division attacked from positions east of Sangerhausen (D4725) to establish a bridgehead over the Elbe River. It was necessary to construct two bridges across the Saale River in the vicinity of Friedeburg (D7614) as all bridges were found blown. On 14 April patrols reached the Milde River. Bridgehead forces were withdrawn to the West of the army limiting line (Milde River), on 18 April. On 23 April elements of Division were relieved and started movement to new assembly area. By 26 April entire Division had been relieved and was in assembly area vicinity of Sangerhausen (D4725) conducting patrols, rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment. At close of period the Division remained in this assembly area.

Company A was attached to CGA from 1 April to 25 April. During the advance to the Weser River it was necessary to construct and maintain bypass around blown R.R. overpass (091470) while debris was cleared. A 36 ft. Treadway bridge was constructed at 0110478. Debris of blown overpass at 0096400 was removed and abatis just east of this position. Road blocks cleared in Beverungen (01341). Abatis cleared from road at 0138390 and 0145358. After crossing the Weser River in the attack to the East a 48 ft. Treadway bridge was constructed at 0714375 and a 72 ft. Treadway Bridge was constructed at 0756396. Ferds and approaches were constructed at 06943. In the attack to secure bridgehead over the Elbe it was necessary to remove several mine road blocks and also to place friendly mine blocks. Log road blocks were removed in vicinity of Bessau (01070). Company assisted in security of area and mopping up operations until relieved from CGA. From 25 April to close of period, Company was engaged in conducting security patrols, rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment in assembly positions vicinity of Sangerhausen (D4725).

Company B was attached to CCB from 1 April to 17 April. During the attack to the Weser River muddy roads were encountered which required considerable maintenance to allow passage of the Combat Command. Removed Royal Mines from block at Longenthal (01336) and road blocks at 0120378, 0184373 and 0190364. Scattered mines removed at Haarbruck (0112372). Seventy-two feet of Treadway was used at 0507584 to strengthen existing bridge for passage of Task Force. In the attack to secure bridgehead over the Elbe River a 336 foot floating Treadway bridge was constructed across the Saale River at D778439. Construction was started on approach route to bridge site for crossing of Milde River at 01365, on night of 15 April, and bridging operations began the next morning. Due to heavy artillery and mortar fire construction was very slow and at 171800 April, construction was ordered discontinued. Company was also relieved from attachment to CCB, returning to Battalion control and assigned to guarding the Division C.P. Relieved from this assignment on 25 April and moved to assembly area vicinity of Sangerhausen (D4725) and conducted security patrols, rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment to end of period.

Company C was attached to CC "Howze" from 1 April to 25 April. During attack to the Weser River road maintenance required the entire Company to permit passage of the Combat Command. On 8 April CC "Howze" crossed Weser River to the south of the Division Zone for attack on 9 April to the Northeast.

Appendix #1. After Action report for the month of April 194b cont'd.

Twenty-four foot Treadway bridge was constructed at 0402292, and 60 ft. Treadway Trestle bridge constructed at 0541477. On 10 April a 48 ft. Treadway bridge was constructed at 0822319. On 12 April a 24 ft. Bridge was placed at 0248263. In the attack to secure bridgehead over the Elbe a 324 ft. floating Treadway bridge was constructed at 0777455. Road blocks were removed at 0758408, and in Kotheln (09258). Company removed scattered mines and placed friendly mine blocks in Combat Command sector. Assisted in security of Combat Command and mopping up of Combat Command area in vicinity of Dessau (81070) until relieved on 25 April, returning to Battalion control and moving to assembly area vicinity of Sangerhausen (04725). Remainder of period spent conducting security patrols in area and rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment.

Company D was assigned to guarding the Division C.P. from 1 April to 17 April. On 17 April Company was attached to CGR, and was given the mission of removing that portion of the bridge across the Mulde River that Company B had succeeded in placing. Artillery fire had destroyed several piers which made it impossible to get the bridge out without a considerable salvage job. Orders were given to sink the bridge which was done. On 21 April a 80 ft. foot bridge was constructed at 0145558. Assisted in patrolling and securing the Combat Command area until relieved of attachment on 24 April. Moved to assembly position vicinity of Sangerhausen (04725) and conducted security patrols and rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment, and guarded civilian establishments to end of period.

Company E had bridging equipment in support of each Combat Command. On 8 April Company assisted 49th Engr Combat Bn in construction of 456 ft. floating Treadway Bridge across the Weser River at Wehrden (01347), and on 13 April assisted Company B and Company C in construction of the two bridges across the Saale River. Also constructed and operated a ferry at the southern site for crossing of M-26 Tanks. Company assisted Company B and Company D in construction and attempt at removal of bridge across the Mulde River (81368). On 26 April began salvage operation to recover bridge equipment in Mulde River (81365). This operation completed on 28 April. Remainder of period spent in assembly area vicinity of Sangerhausen (04725) conducting security patrols, rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of equipment. Throughout the entire period all bridges placed by the Battalion were removed by this company when bridges of a more permanent type were placed by Corps Engineers.

The Reconnaissance Platoon of Headquarters Company assisted the 85rd Armd Recon. Bn over its assigned routes during the operational periods by the removal of scattered mines and obstacles.

To the East of the Weser River many aerial bombs were used for demolition both for bridges and craters. Demolitions were not well planned and executed in many cases but did slow the advance of the Division for short periods.