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HEADQUARTERS
45TH ARMORED MEDICAL BATTALION
APO 253, U. S. Army

RC/ges

2 May 1945

319.1

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports for
Calendar Month of April, 1945.

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



1. In accordance with Par 10, AR 346-105 (G 3), the following
After Action Report is submitted for the 45th Armored Medical Battalion,
APO 253, U. S. Army, for the calendar month of April, 1945.

a. Original Unit: No change.

b. Changes in Organization:

GAINS			LOSSES		
Personnel	Duty	Date	Personnel	Duty	Date
1 O	Asgn'd	1 Apr 45	2 EM	Transfd	3 Apr 45
9 EM	"	1 " "	1 O	"	5 " "
1 EM	"	2 " "	1 EM	"	13 " "
1 O	"	4 " "	14 EM	"	17 " "
4 EM	"	5 " "	1 EM	"	18 " "
8 EM	"	10 " "	1 EM	"	20 " "
2 EM	"	12 " "	1 O	"	21 " "
8 EM	"	14 " "	1 EM	"	22 " "
27 EM	"	20 " "	10 EM	"	24 " "
1 EM	"	22 " "	3 EM	"	26 " "
1 EM	"	28 " "	2 EM	"	30 " "
1 EM	"	30 " "			

c. <u>Strength:</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
1 APRIL	46	3	426
30 APRIL	46	3	444
<u>Net Increase:</u>	0	0	18

d. Stations:

(1) Battalion CP & Hq and Hq Company

1 Apr -	1 Apr -	MARBURG, GERMANY
2 Apr -	3 Apr -	KORBACH, "
4 Apr -	7 Apr -	ETHELN, "
6 Apr -	10 Apr -	BRACKEL, "
11 Apr -	13 Apr -	DUDERSTADT, "
14 Apr -	30 Apr -	SAN GERHAUSEN,

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After Action Report, Hq, 48th Armd Med Bn, April, 1945 (Cont'd)

(2) Company "A":

1 Apr - 2 Apr - HAAREN, GERMANY
3 Apr - 6 Apr - PADERBORN, "
7 Apr - 9 Apr - OTTERBORN, "
10 Apr - 11 Apr - HARDEGSEN, "
12 Apr - 12 Apr - GIBHOLDBAU SEN, "
13 Apr - 14 Apr - GERBSTEDE, "
15 Apr - 16 Apr - GERLEBOCK, "
17 Apr - 17 Apr - FERNSDORF, "
18 Apr - 24 Apr - QUELLENDORF, "
25 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN, "

(3) Company "B":

1 Apr - 1 Apr - MARSBURG, GERMANY
2 Apr - 2 Apr - HETTEN, "
3 Apr - 6 Apr - HAMBORN, "
7 Apr - 7 Apr - FROHNHAUSEN, "
8 Apr - 10 Apr - LANGENTHAL, "
11 Apr - 12 Apr - HORDHAUSEN, "
13 Apr - 14 Apr - ZAHITZ, "
15 Apr - 23 Apr - TORNAN, "
24 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN "

(4) Company "C":

1 Apr - 2 Apr - HAAREN, GERMANY
3 Apr - 6 Apr - NORD BORCHEN, "
7 Apr - 9 Apr - BAD DRIBURG, "
10 Apr - 12 Apr - HARDEGSEN, "
13 Apr - 14 Apr - OBERSDORF, "
15 Apr - 16 Apr - BIEHDORF, "
17 Apr - 17 Apr - PRESSLITZ, "
18 Apr - 18 Apr - KOTHEN, "
19 Apr - 19 Apr - ZORBIG, "
20 Apr - 25 Apr - SCHENDER, "
26 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN, "

e. Marches: See Narrative Report, Appendix No. 1.

f. Battles: See Narrative Report, Appendix No. 1.

g. Commanding Officer: Charles L. Steyart, Lt. Col., Medical Corps

h. Losses in Action:

Vaughn, Dossie L.	Pfc	Prisoner of War	29 Mar 45
Yoho, William E.	Pfc	LNA	2 Apr "
Selke, Grant	Pfc	LNA	13 Apr "
House, Jr., Rig	Pvt	LNA	21 Apr "

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After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, April, 1945 (Cont'd)

1. Awards:

The 45th Armored Medical Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for "superior performance of duty in accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks during the period 30 June 44 to 30 September 44" per Par 1, GO #51, Hq, 3d Armd Div., dated 27 April 1945.

PURPLE HEART

Le Ponte, Joseph J.	Captain	GO #48	25 April
Zapke, John	Pfc	GO #45	10 April
Ballew, Charles M.	S/Sgt.	GO #42	2 April
Sims, Jr., John	Pvt.	GO #42	2 April



FREDERICK C. WEEKLEY
Major, MG
Commanding

APPENDIX: No. 1 - Narrative Report

INCLOSURES: One (1) copy Unit Journal, Bn CP
Six (6) copies - Tng Memo #1, Hq 45th Armd Med Bn.
Six (6) copies - Recapitulation of Casualties.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1945.

Narrative Report

Maps: Map CENTRAL EUROPE, Sheets P5, P6, P7, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, R5,
R6; Scale: 1/100,000.

1. On 1 April 1945, the 3rd Armored Division, after its spectacular dash to the outskirts of PADERBORN, was tactically engaged with stubborn elements of SS Troops and Officer Candidates engaged in a last effort to stop us from completing the encirclement of the RUHR VALLEY.

2. Disposition of combat commands and of our medical companies was as follows:

a. Combat Command "A": One task force had entered PADERBORN and had begun cleaning up the city; another task force had made contact with the 2nd Armored Division in LIPPSTADT. Company "A" had one treatment section in HAAREN and one section in KIRCHBORCHEN.

(1) On 2 April, the entire company was set up in a Luftwaffe administration building in PADERBORN, where it remained till 5 April while combat troops continued to outpost and defend PADERBORN and LIPPSTADT.

(2) The entire medical company was kept closed up to task force headquarters throughout this drive because it was the safest place to be. The forward position of the treatment stations also made it possible to render definitive medical care within 30 minutes after a casualty was tagged.

b. Combat Command "B": was coiled SE of PADERBORN in preparation for an attack on the city from the right flank. By 1700, two task forces had completed their mission. Company "B" supported the attack from HAMBORN. Casualties were light and no unusual incidents intercepted the evacuation channels.

c. Combat Command "C": At the beginning of the period, this combat command was securing approaches to PADERBORN and protecting the advance of Combat Command "A". Company "C", located at NORDBORCHEN, supported the attack, treating 56 American casualties.

d. The medical companies were each evacuated by a platoon of ten ambulances from the 578th Ambulance Company. The Field Hospitals and Evacuation Hospitals were soon out of reasonable reach which necessitated trips of 150, 155 and 175 miles. Fortunately, casualties were light thus we were not forced to hold patients at this time.

3. On 5 April, the Division attacked due East to secure unlimited objectives of the way to a crossing of the WESER RIVER.

a. Company "A": Supported Combat Command "A" in its mission to seize BAD DRIBURG. The entire company moved out after dark on the night of 5 April toward BAD DRIBURG. Traffic congestion and impossible driving conditions forced the company to turn back. At 0530 the next morning, the

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,

US Army, April, 1945 (Cont'd).

company moved out again, reached BAD HIRSBURG at 0730 and continued until it met the task force near OTTERBERGEN, where mounting resistance was met.

(1) About 1040, it bivouaced temporarily in a field on the west side of the town treating casualties. The resistance developed into a battle and the treatment section needed a suitable place to care for increasing casualties. The entire company moved into a schoolhouse in OTTERBERGEN midst mortar fire and set up at what was then the front line. Evacuation was no problem.

(2) Another task force had met resistance on the right flank. Ambulances from that task force were therefore evacuating forward to the treatment station.

(3) The company stayed in OTTERBERGEN until 10 April. 56 casualties were treated. Rearward evacuation had not improved.

(4) Beginning 9 April, Combat Command "A" followed on two central routes of advance across the WESER RIVER. Company "A" moved from OTTERBERGEN on 9 April and to HARDEGGEN on the 10th, to GIEBOLDENLAUSEN and SAN GERHAUSEN the next two days. The only action was the elimination of a pocket of resistance near OSTERODE. Battle casualties treated for this action totaled 23.

(5) Since Combat Command "A" was in Division Reserve and more or less held the care of the division zone of security while task forces of other combat commands engaged the enemy in thrusts as far East as the ELBE River and the city of DESSAU. Company "A" remained together as a company following Combat Command Headquarters route of advance.

(6) From SAN GERHAUSEN, the company moved to GERBSTEDT. On 14 April it moved again to GERLEBOCK, on the 15th to FERNSDORF. One section remained here to support a task force cleaning up towns in the rear and the other section moved to QUELLENWIESE. At FERNSDORF, an attempt by the enemy to retake the town was smothered by combat troops while "A" Company Medics cheered their comrades from the roof tops. The company was together on the 17th at QUELLENWIESE where it stayed until 25 April. 172 American battle casualties had been treated from 13 - 25 April inclusive.

b. Company "B": Following Combat Command "B" in its fight toward the WESER RIVER, Company "B" split its company into two sections, one trailing each task force. Resistance was strong until troops got over the river. Once across task forces continued to roll ahead and by 10 April, Company "B" had bivouaced in NORDHAUSEN. Their principle job here was to take care of 200 emaciated political prisoners in the infamous Nordhausen Concentration Camp. Conditions here were hideous beyond belief and many a American soldiers, for the first time saw revealed the inhuman evils of Nazism. Task force treatment stations took up the march the next day, trailing charging tanks through SAN GERHAUSEN, BEIGLEBEN, across the SAALE RIVER, eventually reaching TORNAN on 14 April.

(1) 3d Armored Division forces had outdistanced supporting 9th Division Infantry, stretched its supply lines to a thin elastic, and finally were held up by the MULDE RIVER.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1945 (Cont'd).

(2) In TORNAU, the company was brought together and set up facilities for treating casualties from the expected counter-attacks. In the subsequent action, two aid stations and 3 ambulances were overrun and captured for 24 hours.

(3) Rearward evacuation became a serious problem. Army ambulances were making trips of 200 - 400 miles, consequently there was a high back log of patients. 2½ ton trucks were used to evacuate less seriously wounded patients; for over a week they were constantly in use, going back over roads which were frequently under attack. One ambulance mixed in with a column of combat vehicles was fired on and destroyed. The driver was seriously burned, the patients killed. No other personnel or vehicles were lost.

(4) The company stayed in TORNAU until 25 April. Resistance was slowly cleaned out and infantry units gradually moved up.

c. Company "C": Supporting Combat Command "A" which is following on central routes of the Division attack.

(1) On 6 April, Company "C" moved to BAD DRIBURG, remained there until the 8th when it moved out to follow the column across the WESER RIVER pontoon bridge. On 9 April one section remained at IMBEN, the other was sent forward to accompany a task force attacking HARDEGSEN.

(2) On the 10 April, the Company Commander was forced to split his company and attach a treatment station to each of two task forces, to eliminate necessity for using lateral evacuation routes. The combat command swung East. One section moved out of HILKERODE to follow, was delayed by blocked roads but finally pulled through by tank destroyers and tank retrievers. Treatment administered in route was similar to method used last month: casualties were sent down column to surgical truck, treated there, transferred to Army ambulance, dispatched rearward when ambulance had a complete load. The 2nd section set up at SILKERODE, Ambulances evacuating this task force had to proceed across country because of blown up roads and impassable debris.

(3) The attack continued though gasoline supply was low. Although casualties had not been extremely heavy, 108 American battle casualties being received in seven days increasing resistance slowed down the advance. On 13 April one section had set up in THALDORF, the other at BELLEBEN, treating 56 casualties. The task forces moved across the SAALE RIVER on the 14th. By 2000 the same day, combat elements had reached KOTHEN, treatment stations having bivouaced in KLEIN-WILKENITZ and BIENDORF.

(4) The situation at this point was very much like a naval battle. Task forces, including a treatment section of a medical company would attack a town, return to a base, go out next morning to seize another town (or perhaps the same one) return to find their base taken and fight to get it back. Armored units were left without supporting infantry and although unable to "hold" territory manage to stop serious enemy counter-attacks by careful and planned attacks of their own.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1946, (Cont'd).

(5) Company "C" supported this type of warfare by attaching a treatment section with each task force. On 15 April there was no change in location; on 16 April one section had been established at PREUSSLITZ; on 17 April it moved again to TORNAU to support attacks toward BERNBURG and KOTZEN. On the 18th one task force attacked toward AKEN followed by the 2nd section of Company "C" moving from KOTZEN to ZORBIG, thence to SCHNUTER on the 20th, where it was joined by the rest of the company on the 23rd and remained until the 25th. Casualties during the operations from 13 April to 23 April totaled 469 Americans, a figure which shows how heavy the resistance and how difficult the problems of evacuation for a trip to the nearest hospital meant 200 - 400 miles of steady traveling.

4. Hq and Hq Company moved with Division Trains and continued to operate the Division Rest Center. Transportation of remaining cases was affected by making double trips between stations. The Ration and the Fuel and Lubricant section worked day and night to keep the medical companies supplied. At NORDHAUSEN a Medical Officer and technicians were sent to care for the overrun Concentration Camp.

5. By 25 April after 301 days in the combat zone and 218 days in contact with the enemy the entire Division had been relieved from combat and were assembling in new bivouac areas. All companies of this battalion returned to control of this headquarters and a period of maintenance, rehabilitation and training based on Operations Memorandum No, 48, Hq, 3d Armd Div, was begun. A training program was published emphasizing rehabilitation, physical fitness, and orientation. (See Incl # 1).

6. Despite the hardships of constant movement, the hazards of travelling through partially cleared areas, the logistical headaches over fast diminishing supplies, the medical companies maintained their usual efficient evacuation mission. The average distance from aid stations varied from 0 to 5 miles.

7. There were several additional problems on this drive which caused needless work, waste of time and complication of duties.

a. The distance to Field Hospitals and Evacuation Hospitals was overly long. For most of the period from 29 March to 25 April, the axis of evacuation ranged from 55 to 180 miles in one direction. In some cases, Field Hospitals refused to accept casualties including non-transportable cases. Thus, not only was our evacuation slowed down but an accumulation of patients seriously affected our support of advancing troops as we were forced to use our own transportation.

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b. There are two possible solutions: (1) To increase the number of Army ambulances; (2) To attach two hospital units from a Field Hospital to the Division to care for all casualties evacuated by armored treatment platoons.

c. Medical company commanders were given the responsibility of investigating any enemy hospitals, reporting numbers of wounded PW's, number of operating personnel, searching towns for enemy wounded, investigating and reporting on concentration camps and PW camps.

8. Billeting was no problem in this part of Germany, relatively untouched because of the speed of the attack and because the population decided not to resist.

9. Officers and men of the 576th Ambulance Company performed outstanding services in the evacuation of 3d Armored Division casualties. Driving day and night over strange dangerous roads for distances which averaged 150 miles, twice captured by enemy patrols, these men performed their duty in an exemplary manner.

10. Attached as inclosure number 3 is a recapitulation of casualties treated by this battalion from June 1944 to April 1945, inclusive.

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Inlosure No. 2 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, Apr, 1945

RECAPITULATION OF CASUALTIES INCURRED

JUNE 1944 - APRIL 1945



MONTH	3d Armd Division	Other American	Allied	Civilian	Enemy	TOTAL
JUNE	320	62	0	0	3	385
JULY	1310	670	17	32	170	2199
AUG	2136	868	33	122	453	3610
SEPT	2047	550	7	159	980	3723
OCT	1404	224	0	48	29	1705
NOV	1240	430	0	23	51	1744
DEC	1713	1418	4	28	118	3281
JAN	2590	1330	4	63	147	4134
FEB	1322	213	2	10	58	1605
MAR	1701	932	8	121	295	3057
APR	1654	785	47	179	551	3216

GRAND TOTAL 28,639

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