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HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "B"  
Third Armored Division  
APO 253, U.S. Army



ACTION AGAINST ENEMY, REPORT AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT  
Combat Command "B", 3rd Armored Division  
For period of 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

FOREWORD

The preparation of this report follows the form as outlined by Paragraph 6, Section I, Administrative Memorandum No. 46, Headquarters VII Corps, dated 21 December 1944; with certain exceptions. These exceptions are necessary since a Combat Command, under the 1/3 of the 3rd Armored Division (Heavy Division), is a tactical headquarters only. Much of the administrative data required by the report form is submitted directly to the administrative staff section of parent units from which attachments are made to form a Combat Command.

*William A. Castille*  
WILLIAM A. CASTILLE,  
Major, S-2  
Combat Command "B"

**SURPLUS**  
RECORD MATERIAL  
RECORDS DIV., NARS.

CLASSIFICATION
<b>CANCELED</b>
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
<i>Wright, Gaff 460</i>
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 6 June 46

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A. ORIGINAL UNIT.

Hq. and Hq. Detachment C. Comd. "B" (Brig. Gen. T. E. BOUDINOT, Commanding)  
Signal Detachment, 143rd Signal Company, 3rd Armored Division  
M.P. Detachment, 3rd Armored Division  
CIC Detachment, 3rd Armored Division  
IPW Team No. 36, MIS

COMBAT UNITS. Units attached from separate Battalions, Regiments, etc. by command of the Commanding General, 3rd Armored Division and Higher Headquarters. (See Part B "Change in Organization")

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION.

The composition of a Combat Command is subject to many changes throughout a combat operation. Therefore, attachments to and changes in composition of the Combat Command are recorded by means of "TROOP LISTS" which are included as a part of the NARRATIVE REPORT. (See ANNEX No. 1)

C. STRENGTH.

Approximate strength of units is attached as ANNEX No. 3. It must be emphasised here that these figures are subject to correction. They were obtained from partial reports submitted to this headquarters. Final figures and official records of strength are kept by administrative staff section of parent organizations (separate Battalions, Regiments, Division) from which attachments are made to form a Combat Command.

D. STATIONS.

GERMANY (Paderborn to Elbe River)

E. MARCHES.

Covered by Narrative Report (ANNEX No. 1) and MAPS (ANNEX No. 2)

F. CAMPAIGNS.

Not officially named by Higher Headquarters at the time of writing this report.

G. BATTLES.

GERMANY - Paderborn to Elbe River.

H. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS.

The names of commanding officers of all major combat units or task forces under Combat Command "B" control are shown on "TROOP LISTS" which are included as a part of the Narrative Report (ANNEX No. 1).

I. LOSSES IN ACTION.

The records showing the names of officers and enlisted men lost in action are kept by the Personnel sections of parent units (separate Battalions, Regiments, Division). Only the total number of officers and men lost each day is submitted

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to this headquarters in the form of a casualty report. A casualty report based on these daily casualty reports is included as ANNEX No. 4.

**FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES TO ACTION.**

No citations were awarded for this period.

## K. PHOTOGRAPHS.

None available from this headquarters. Photo teams from Army Signal Corps operate with the combat units but under Division control and their material goes to Division.

L. LIST OF INCLOSURES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

APPENDIX No. 1 - - - - - Narrative Report.  
APPENDIX No. 2 - - - - - MAP A. Sheet 1  
Sheet 2



**APPENDIX No. 3 - - - - - - - - - Strength Report.**

APPENDIX No. - - - - - Message File and Journal of S-3 Section

A. 1 - 13 April 1945  
B. 13 - 30 April 1945

APPENDIX No. 6 - - - - - Message File and Journal of S-2 Section

A. 1 - 15 April 1945  
B. 15 - 30 April 1945.

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ANNEX NO. 1

NARRATIVE

The "Narrative Report" for the beginning of the period 1 April - 30 April 1945, is a continuation of the March Narrative Report. For TROOP LISTS, COMMANDERS, etc., refer to ANNEX NO. 1, "NARRATIVE"; AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT for period 1 March - 31 March 1945.

At 0225 hours on 1 April, TF LOVELADY was relieved of the mission of siezing the towns of LICHTENAU and ordered to move immediately to DORESHAGEN and EBBINGHAUSEN and pass through the 83rd Armd. Rcn. Bn. there, attacking northwest towards PADERBORN at 0600A. TF LOVELADY left a blocking force of 1 tank platoon and 1 infantry platoon where they were coiled at 763365 and started moving at 0430A. The attack on PADERBORN was launched at 0800. Initially the advance was made against no resistance. TF LOVELADY entered PADERBORN at 0900 against S.A. and light A.T. fire. The advance continued throughout the southeast portion of the town. The sector assigned TF LOVELADY was cleared and secured by 1700A. Contact was maintained with the 83rd Armd. Rcn. Bn. at 760428.

TF WILBORN attacked towards PADERBORN at 0600A, the edge of the town was reached at 0655. Enemy infantry and a roving S.P. gun apposed the advance through the built-up section of the town. At 1030 elements of TF WILBORN crossed the RR into the northeast part of the town and by 1700 had their sector cleared and secured. Contact was maintained with TF BOLES (C. Comd. "A") at 707483. For routes, sectors, etc., see ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

It was on 1 April that a message was received from the Commanding General VII Corps ordering a force be sent to LIPPSTADT (4242) to contact elements of the 2nd Armored Division (U.S. 9th Army) moving from the west. TF KANE was diverted from the attack on PADERBORN and proceeded to the west to effect a junction with 9th U.S. Army. At 1520 Air OP planes of 2nd and 3rd Armored Division made radio contact and at 1530 physical contact was made with elements of 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. (2nd Armd. Div.) in the southwest edge of the town of LIPPSTADT. This closed the door on the famous RUHR Valley, industrial heart of Germany. The pocket thus formed by this junction of the two U.S. Armies was officially named the ROSE Pocket in commemoration of Maj. Gen. MAURICE ROSE, Commander of the 3rd Armored Division, who lost his life while leading this Division in its' drive on PADERBORN.

On 2 April, TF WILBORN continued to secure the northeast part of PADERBORN and maintain contact with TF BOLES (C. Comd. "A") by patrol.

TF LOVELADY continued to secure the southeast part of PADERBORN. At 1915B TF LOVELADY sent a force consisting of 1 company light tanks and 1 company infantry and a section of tank destroyers to DAHL to relieve elements of the 83rd Armd. Rcn. Bn. which had entered the town without opposition. The relief was completed at 1945B and at the close of the period the town was being secured by these elements of TF LOVELADY and contact was being maintained with the 83rd Armd. Rcn. Bn. by patrol. The road block force of TF LOVELADY continued to hold at 763365 throughout 2 April.

On 3 April, C. Comd. "B" continued to defend, patrol, and maintain road blocks in its sector throughout the period. TF WILBORN sent a patrol from PADERBORN to BAD LIPPSPHINGE and contact was established with elements of 8th Armd. Div. at 1645 hours. TF LOVELADY moved his road block from EBBINGHAUSEN (672368) to LICHTENAU (805365) at 2345 hours to relieve a patrol from 83rd Armd. Rcn. Bn. which entered LICHTENAU at 2120 hours without opposition.

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On 4 April, TF WILBORN and TF LOVELADY were relieved in the eastern sector of PADERBORN by TF KANE and closed into new defensive positions as shown on ANNEX NO. 2, MAP "A". By 2000 hours TF WILBORN was closed in DAHL and HERBRAM. The 1st Bn. 33rd Armd. Regt. of TF WILBORN occupied and secured the town of HERBRAM (6142) against very light resistance. TF LOVELADY was closed in at EGGERINGHAUSEN by 1900 hours. A battle group of 1 tank company and 1 infantry company from TF RICHARDSON (C. Cond. HOWZE) relieved elements of TF LOVELADY which were securing LIGHENAU.

On 4 April, Division order was received. The Division to attack at H-hour 5 April 1945 to seize and secure objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4. (See ANNEX NO. 2 MAP "A") Thereafter by dismounted action will clear the wooded area within the division zone and reconnoiter to objectives 5, 6, 7 and 8, prepared to occupy and defend with infantry and armor, and be prepared for further movement to the east.

Combat Command "B" will advance over routes (shown on ANNEX NO. 2 MAP "A") to secure objectives 3 and 4. Thereafter by dismounted action they will clear the wooded area within their zone and reconnoiter to objectives 7 and 8, prepared to occupy and defend.

TF WILBORN attacked east from vicinity of DAHL at 1200B on Route No. 3 to secure objectives 3 and 7. (See ANNEX NO. 2, MAP "A") By 1600 objective No. 7 was secured and consolidated against no opposition. Orders were issued for the task force to resume the attack at 2120 hours and the advance continued throughout the night. Road conditions were the chief opposition.

TF LOVELADY attacked east from the vicinity of EGGERINGHAUSEN at 1200B on Route #4 to secure objectives 4 and 8. At 2120B the force was secure on objective 8 and the task force resumed the attack throughout the night.

Not until TF WILBORN had reached HAARHOLT (0739) on the early morning of 6 April was any enemy resistance encountered. Here, however, heavy bazooka fire and artillery fire was met. By 0925B the task force had pushed on through and reached BORNHOLTZ (0537) where considerable S.A. fire was met. The advance continued steadily against moderate enemy resistance. Infantry mopped up in the wooded area at 0835. The task force consolidated after clearing out enemy resistance and advanced to HAARBURCK (1137). This town was cleared against moderate resistance, and the task force was ordered to secure the town for the night.

TF LOVELADY followed Route #4 and continued the advance throughout the night of 5/6 April. During the early morning of 6 April, leading elements encountered enemy positions defended by S.A. and bazooka fire near the road junction (082348). Artillery fire was received throughout the period sporadically. Advancing steadily against moderate to stubborn resistance, TF LOVELADY reached MARDE (1133) at 1930. By nightfall, infantry elements were advancing through the woods at 1333 when orders were received to coil in place and secure positions for the night.

TF WILBORN attacked at 070630B from a position vicinity 120376 and immediately encountered an enemy road block. After the road block was reduced, the advance continued against light opposition. At 1100B, TF WILBORN entered HERSTILLE (1639) where direct fire from both sides of the river, artillery, S.A., and bazooka fire were encountered. At 1115B a force from TF WILBORN was sent to CARLSHAFEN (1839) to secure the town. This force encountered considerable artillery fire, bazooka fire and heavy S.A. fire during the advance to CARLSHAFEN and in the town itself the bridge at CARLSHAFEN had been blown before our force reached the town. Stubborn resistance was overcome in the two towns and at 1800B HERSTILLE and CARLSHAFEN were secure.

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TF LOVELADY moved out at 0630 and advanced initially against light resistance. At 0945, TF LOVELADY entered DEISSEL (1534) and quickly secured the town, encountering only feeble resistance. After moving out from DEISSEL, TF LOVELADY encountered terrain difficulties which slowed the advance. In the vicinity of 184373 a stubbornly defended enemy road block halted the advance. After reducing this road block, the task force pushed on to the south edge of HELMARSHAUSEN (1938) where another defended road block was eliminated and the force entered the town. At 1800B, all enemy resistance within the town had been cleared and the town secured.

On 8 April - TF LOVELADY sent out an infantry force at 1145 hours to clear out the wooded high ground at 207399. By 1445 this high ground was secured against no enemy opposition.

TF WELBORN sent dismounted patrols from CARLSHAFEN at 1530 hours, east along the river road to WANBECK (2338). This patrol met no opposition and had completed the mission of opening the road by 2045 hours.

At the close of the day, 8 April, Combat Command "B" was being relieved on their positions by elements of 1st Infantry Division.

Orders had been received from higher headquarters that Combat Command "B" would be relieved in the HELMARSHAUSEN - CARLSHAFEN area during the night of 8/9 April by elements of the 1st Infantry Division. Combat Command "B" was ordered to move from this area through area held by 104th Infantry Division to assembly positions east of the WESER River at 090700 April. For routes and assembly area see ANNEX NO. 2 MAP "A".

Combat Command "B" would be prepared to attack to the east on Division order from this assembly position over routes 3 and 4 to secure GIEBOLDHAUSEN (7137) and BILSHAUSEN (6526).

Relief by the 1st Infantry Division was completed by 090600 April and the Combat Command "B" moved in single column across the WESER River. The crossing was started at 0830. Since the advance of C. Comd. HOWZE was so rapid, Combat Command "B" was ordered to proceed through the assigned assembly area and proceed on routes 3 and 4, and advance at all possible speed to the objectives BILSHAUSEN (6739) and GIEBOLDHAUSEN (7137).

TF WELBORN, following route #3 encountered dug in infantry along the road and in the town vicinity of 4337. A tank concentration near HAIN (4735) was also encountered in the late afternoon. Supporting aircraft controlled by TF RICHARDSON destroyed 2 enemy tanks in this vicinity. Tank fire destroyed 3 others. Pressure by TF LOVELADY on route 4 and continued attacks by TF WELBORN on route 3 broke up the enemy defences and TF WELBORN broke away and advanced rapidly to the stream crossing at 518388. The bridge at this point was strongly defended and finally blown by the enemy. At the close of the day an infantry bridgehead was being pushed across.

TF LOVELADY advanced steadily on route 4 against moderate resistance. By the close of the day TF LOVELADY was also confronted with a blown bridge at 510381 and pushed an infantry bridgehead across.

TF WELBORN continued clearing the road blocks on both sides of the bridge and at 0730 hours resumed the advance which proceeded initially against no enemy resistance. The column was delayed by a blown bridge at 693325, but the advance was soon resumed and at 1230, TF WELBORN entered BUDERSTADT which had been cleared on 9 April by elements of the 2nd Infantry Division.

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At 1505, enemy infantry and an S.P. gun were encountered vicinity 890276. This resistance was overcome and the advance continued to EFSCHENROADE (9227) where stubborn enemy infantry and bazooka men halted the column. A large number of snipers delayed the clearing of the town but at 1815 hours, all resistance had been overcome and many PWs taken. TF WELBORN coiled southwest of NORDHAUSEN as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

The attack by TF LOVELADY was delayed due to the muddy condition of the terrain at the bridgehead but by 0830 hours moved out. There was no enemy resistance initially but difficult terrain vicinity 780248 delayed the column for some time. At 1440, TF LOVELADY encountered enemy infantry and fire from S.P. guns vicinity 899250. This resistance was overcome and the force moved on to GR. BODENGEN (9023) where enemy infantry and bazooka men were encountered. After overcoming this strong-point, the advance was rapid and the task force reached 052205 by 1815 hours where they coiled for the night.

Orders were received to make a coordinated attack on NORDHAUSEN, 110430 April. TF WELBORN to secure the town north of the 27 grid line and TF LOVELADY to secure the town south of the 27 grid line.

On 11 April the attack was launched as scheduled and by 0740 hours TF LOVELADY was in the southwest part of the town without opposition. By 1225 hours the south part of the town was secure.

TF WELBORN had leading elements in the northwest edge of town by 0630 and by 1135 the north part of the town was secured.

Here, Combat Command "B" was relieved by the 3rd Bn. 415th Infantry Regt. during late evening of 11 April. Orders were issued for Combat Command "B" to continue the attack to the east.

At 0700 hours 12 April, TF WELBORN moved out - advancing rapidly on Route 3 without resistance until reaching 5225 where bazooka fire was encountered and A.T. fire from 540255. The force backed out and gave the town an artillery treatment then moved on through the town and seized the objective HOLDENSTET (5625).

TF LOVELADY attacked at 0700 hours and advanced rapidly along route 4 against scattered light resistance of bazooka and small arms fire. By 1335 hours, the task force had seized the C. Comd. "B" objectives of ALLSTETT (5426) and WOLFESTET (5720).

13 April 1945 at 0700 hours, TF WELBORN continued the attack towards the east. Resistance was moderate until the leading elements reached 609274 where direct fire from 80mm dual purpose guns halted the advance. The enemy was bringing into play many of the anti-aircraft battalions which had long formed the inner ring anti-aircraft defences for Berlin and the important industrial area of north-central Germany. At least four AA guns were knocked out by noon. The advance was slow. The town of MISLESEN (6132) was declared open and no resistance was encountered there. The advance continued to POLLESEN (6737) and was entered at 1300 hours against moderate resistance. In POLLESEN a PW camp was overrun. 450 British PWs were liberated including 300 officers. The majority of these men had been in captivity since June 1940. Captured at DUNKIRK. TF WELBORN continued to advance and by 1515 entered FRIEDEBURG (7743). The town was cleared, and by nightfall one Bn. of infantry was across the river and a bridge was under construction at a site vicinity of 776436.

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TF LOVELADY attacked at 130700B and advanced rapidly against light resistance, reaching the south edge of HELFTA (6629) at 0830 hours. Here, heavy flanking fire from 88mm guns as well as bazooka teams and S.P. guns were encountered. Resistance in HELFTA was cleared by 1010 hours and infantry forces were working into UNTERRIEDDORF (6831) where heavy 88mm fire again halted the advance. Stubborn enemy held out until 1430 hours when TF LOVELADY overran the positions and pushed on. By 1700 hours, leading elements reached LASCHNITZ (8238). The bridge at 825392 was blown as the column approached, and reconnaissance was sent to investigate the bridge at 836337. This bridge was also blown. TF LOVELADY was therefore ordered to assemble as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A", prepared to follow TF WILBORN over the bridge being constructed at 776436.

14 April, TF WILBORN began crossing the SAALE River immediately upon completion at 0700 hours. After assembling his force east of the river on route No. 3, the attack to the east was resumed at 0915. As the task force moved on its route it continued to meet spotted resistance which was quickly overcome. By early afternoon, the task force began to hit the first organized German resistance just west of the MULDE River. The task force was coiled in position as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A". Patrols were pushing toward the MULDE River in an effort to seize the bridge at 131653 intact.

TF LOVELADY commenced crossing the SAALE River at 0835 immediately in rear of TF WILBORN. As soon as the task force had one battle group east of the river, it jumped off to the east simultaneously with TF WILBORN (0915 hours). TF LOVELADY ran into A.T. fire immediately upon moving out on the attack. Resistance was strong throughout the day. Each little town was organized as a strong point. Approximately 50 men and usually 2 to 4 88mm dual purpose guns. By nightfall the task force was coiled as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

During the days operations, any labor groups camps were overrun and thousands of these slave laborers wearing their striped suits were streaming to the west past our columns. They were a ghastly sight. Many were too weak to walk and were being assisted by their friends. Their inhuman welcome, greetings were heart warming but tactically - they impeded our progress by clogging up roads on the axis of advance and it took quite some time to get the situation under control. Finally collecting points were set up and in a short time 5,000 had been counted. A special problem presented itself when ever it was necessary to evacuate German PWs past these points. On several occasions the American Guards were overrun, the German PWs seized and practically torn to shreds.

15 April - TF WILBORN lifted artillery fire on the bridge site at 134655 at 0445 hours and sent patrols to investigate the bridge. The bridge was blown and the site strongly defended. Newly formed enemy division, with apparently good organization. Their mission was to hold the MULDE River and the resistance was very stubborn.

A Company of infantry and one company of tanks were moved into position to force a crossing, the infantry going across on the wreckage of the blown bridge. Bridging equipment was moved to the site starting at 0830. By 2000 hours, one company plus two platoons of infantry had crossed and most of the enemy S.A. fire was taken off the bridge site.

TF LOVELADY continued to attack east at 150600 April. The initial advance was rapid and unopposed, but heavy S.A. and bazooka fire was met along the road (1154).

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At the railroad crossing (135549) a strongly defended road block was encountered. The task force was ordered to reassemble in that vicinity, disengage and clear THURLAND and KLEINLEIPZIG and the wood to the north thereof up to the 60 grid line where contact was to be made with TF WILBORN. A battle group was sent to clear this area and engaged the enemy there. Results - 80 enemy killed, 250 PWs captured and one S.P. gun destroyed. By nightfall, task force was closed in new positions.

16 April TF WILBORN conducted mopping up operations north of grid 60, held the bridgehead over the MULDE River and continued bridging operations (134653). Construction was impeded by difficult terrain at the south approach and harrassing enemy artillery fire.

TF LOVELADY continued clearing enemy from the area south of grid 60. THURLAND and KLEINLEIPZIG were cleared during the day and elements of TF LOVELADY eliminated enemy resistance in RAGUHN, PRIORAU, MARKE, SCHLERAU and SINDBAUSSEN. A force from TF LOVELADY was sent to clear the road from 100610 to CR 107649 and then turn east to TOTEN and secure the town. By nightfall this operation was still underway.

17 April - TF WILBORN continued to secure the bridgehead over the MULDE River and construction continued on a treadway bridge at that point until 1645 hours, when orders were issued to discontinue construction on the bridge and withdraw the bridgehead. It was generally known by this time that the 3rd Armored Division and 1st Army had advanced too far too fast and by putting the bridgehead across - were east of the international boundary which was set by the Allied Command. Newspapers said the Russians broadcast to the Americans, "Stay where you are and we will come to meet you". What basis these stories have, is undetermined by this Headquarters but the fact remains - we were to hold the west bank of the MULDE River and wait for the Russians to join us. Speculations were 3 days to 10 days time.

At 0900 hours, one battle group of TF WILBORN was dispatched to aid elements of TF LOVELADY secure TOTEN (117646) and road junction at 107649. Patrolling was conducted within assigned sectors throughout the day.

During the night 16/17 April, Service elements and Headquarters of TF LOVELADY had been attack at THURLAND by approximately 150 enemy infantry with bazookas and automatic weapons. (Time 170130 April) Severe house to house street fighting resulted and the enemy occupied the town of THURLAND. Co. D of the 83rd Armd. Regt. Inf. was moved north from ZORBIG (0345) to recapture the town of THURLAND and after overcoming strong enemy resistance of artillery, mortar, S.A. fire throughout the day - the town was finally secured and outposted.

The battle group of TF LOVELADY occupying RAGUHN remained in place throughout the day. The other battle group of the task force continued operations to seize TOTEN and the RJ at 107649.

During the night 17/18 April, TF WILBORN withdrew the bridgehead force to the west side of the MULDE river under cover of darkness. Beginning at 170000, operations were resumed on clearing the town of TOTEN. By 1720 the town was secured. Combat patrols moving from TOTEN to contact elements of Combat Command "A" received heavy A.T. and S.A. fire vicinity RJ 107649 and were unable to effect a contact.

TF LOVELADY occupied and secured the town in his sector. See ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

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19 April, TF WELBORN attacked north from vicinity 115635 at 1800 hours in conjunction with TF ORR (C. Comd. "A") with the mission of securing the road 106650 - 113646 and establishing road blocks at 106649 and 106648. Moderate to heavy resistance from artillery, S.A. and bazooka were encountered and by midnight - house to house fighting was still in progress. Continuing to push throughout the night and early morning against very stubborn defenders, the objective at RJ 106649 was finally reached at 1000 hours 20 April.

A combat patrol was organized to sweep all towns in the division zone which had not been gone through during the initial advance of the Division to this area. No resistance was encountered but many PWs taken during the next several days.

The composition of this force was as follows:

TOWN PATROL (Lt. LORANO ANDERHAZY, Commanding)

Rcn. Co. 33rd Armd. Regt. (-1, 2, 3 Plato.)  
Medical Det. "B" Co. 45th Armd. Med. Bn.  
Engr. Section, "B" Co. 23rd Armd. Engr. Bn.  
Military Gov. Representative  
CIC Representative  
MP Team with truck  
IPW Team representative.

The towns covered and routes taken are shown in red ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

On 20 April orders were issued to seize and secure DESSAU. C. Comd. "B" was to play only a small part in the attack - clearing out a sector between the MULDE River and the right boundary of C. Comd. "A". See ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A" for C. Comd. "B" secotr.

21 April, TF WELBORN attacked north in the assigned zone at 0530 and advanced against S.A., artillery and mortar fire. By 1300 the task force zone was cleared and contact was established with elements of C. Comd. "A" on the left.

TF LOVELADY attacked across the SPITTEL WASSEE Creek at 0300 hours to seize the eastern portion of RAGUHN. Moderate enemy resistance was encountered. By 1325 hours the town was cleared. TF LOVELADY was ordered to attack south from RAGUHN between the SPITTEL WASSEE and the MULDE to clear that area as far south as JESSNITZ, and assist TF RICHARDSON in the capture of JESSNITZ. Infantry elements of TF LOVELADY launched this attack at 1100 hours. Light enemy resistance was encountered and contact was established with TF RICHARDSON north of the town of JESSNITZ. TF LOVELADY was not committed in the attack on JESSNITZ and returned to its security positions.

The town patrol (Battle group) of C. Comd. "B" continued the reconnaissance sweep through towns of the Division area not previously cleared. The mission was completed at 1900 hours 21 April.

22 April, TF WELBORN continued to secure the left sector of C. Comd. "B". At 1615 elements of 60th Infantry Regt. (9th Inf. Div.) completed the relief of elements of TF LOVELADY south of a temporary boundary (56 grid line). At 1520, the 2nd Bn. 411th Inf. Regt. (10th Inf. Div.) was detached from TF LOVELADY and moved out from the C. Comd. "B" area.

23 April, C. Comd. "B" continued to secure the assigned Division sector throughout the period.

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24 April, C. Comd. "B" continued to defend the assigned Division sector until 1515 hours when the 17th Inf. Regt. relieved C. Comd. "B". Movement of the C. Comd. "B" was begun at once to designated assembly areas. See ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

Since the entry of the 3rd Armored Division into the combat zone on the 29th day of June 1944, 301 days had elapsed. During this time, the Division had been in active operations and in contact with the enemy for 218 of these days. Operation Memorandum No. 48, 3rd Armored Div., 21 April 1945 ordered that 3rd Armored Division would now move to assigned areas for a period of maintenance, rehabilitation of equipment and rest.

Ample billeting was provided and in assigning quarters, preference was given to comfort of troops. Laundry and replacement of worn out clothing received highest priority in order that men of the 3rd Armored Division would present the neatest appearance possible.

The Division zone was divided up into zones of responsibility. Civilians screened through CIC. Bourgmasters were warned that any acts of sabotage, sniping, or overt act prejudicial to the safety of any of our troops or vehicles would be a hostile act and result in serious consequences to the entire population of the town concerned.

In Memorandum #8, the Division Commander stated in part: "The record of the 3rd Armored Division (SPEARHEAD) on the field of battle is known not only to every member of this Division, but to the entire Allied world, and to countless former prized Divisions of the German army. All of these whom we have met have succumbed to the hot steel of our tankers, infantrymen and artillerymen from NORMANDY to the MULDE River".

"Now that we are being pulled out of the line for a period of rehabilitation and rest, our conduct, discipline and personal appearance must be one of example, as much as our past conduct on the battlefield has been. By stern, uncompromising, yet fair treatment, we will impress on the civilians whose cities we occupy and govern, our intentions, steadfastness in adhering to the Supreme Commanders' desires and directives concerning our conduct in conquered and occupied Germany."

Upon closing into assigned areas, all units were regrouped into their original parent organization. C. Comd. "B" was given supervisory control over the areas occupied by the 33rd Armd. Regt. and the 83rd Armd. Rec. Bn.

With the exception of a change in assigned zones on 29 April, troops of the 3rd Armd. Div. began their occupational role and at the close of the period of this report, no major incident had occurred. CIC, MP and Military Gov. detachments began the many detailed jobs necessary for a successful occupation, control, and re-education of conquered Germany.

This ends the Report After/After Action Report, Combat Command "B", 3rd Armd. Division for the period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive.