

C O N F I D E N T I A L

COMPANY "C":

Company "C", in the early part of the month was located at Gashol, about ten (10) miles south of Paderborn, following on the heels of CC"B". The company moved shortly thereafter to the Paderborn airport, staying four (4) days and catching up on maintenance work prior to the drive to the east. On 6 April the task forces jumped off from Paderborn. This company moved as closely behind as the tactical situation permitted and in one week were bivouacked in the town of Beyernaumberg, four (4) miles southeast of Sangerhausen. Due to the rapid movement of the combat command the company was seldom all together and platoons were "leap-frogged" as the situation required. Most of the work performed was from "Break-downs" rather than enemy action, a result of the age of the vehicles and the inexperience of new reinforcements, and at times the company accumulated a small task force of tanks which it had picked up on the run. On April 15 the company commander Captain Robert J. Grindatti, went on a reconnaissance trip to a new area near Tornau and did not return. He was found in Quellendorf, seriously wounded, after having been captured and then abandoned by the Germans. The two enlisted men who were with him on this trip are still missing in action (paragraph 11, basic letter). 1st Lieut. Clyde S. Reed, Jr., then took command and the company moved to Tornau on April 16. On 27 April the company moved back to Kelbra for a period of rest, rehabilitation, maintenance and training. At this time all personnel are billeted in houses, the first indoor billets for a long period of time.

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

The Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Division Ordnance Section were bivouacked at Marburg, Germany on the 1st of the month, but on that date moved to Korbach. From there the company moved to Paderborn, Bad Driburg, Duderstadt and finally Sangerhausen, seldom staying more than two or three days in one place. Due to the stretching of communication lines the depots were left far in the rear, making it difficult to supply parts, ammunition, replacements, etc. However, the battalion is now fairly close together and have entered into a period of extensive maintenance and rehabilitation. It is hoped that the division has seen its last combat in this theatre, but, in spite of numerous rumors of the imminent "unconditional surrender" of Germany, the Maintenance Battalion is ready to continue in active support of the task forces in any further missions they may be called upon to accomplish.



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C O N F I D E N T I A L

ANNEX NUMBER ONE (1) TO AFTER ACTION REPORT OF MAINTENANCE BATTALION,
THIRD ARMORED DIVISION, FOR MONTH OF APRIL, 1945.
NARRATIVE REPORT

COMPANY "A":

This company was bivouacked on a cold windy plain on Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945, with the CC"A" Trains, while the Third Armored (Spearhead) Division assaulted the great road center of Paderborn, Germany in an attempt to encircle the Ruhr industrial area. The fall of Paderborn was accomplished on that date, but brought no joy, as the previous night the great leader of the Spearhead Division, General Rose, had been killed, bringing grief and shock to all members of the division and all who had known him. On the 2nd of April Company "A" moved into the well-bombed airport at Paderborn. Although the encirclement of the Ruhr was one of the greatest achievements of the war it was not without cost. Numerous vehicular casualties were attributed, not to combat, but to the inexperience of new men in properly maintaining the vehicles and mechanical failures due to age. This company then moved on to Brakel, Sangerhausen, Quellendorf, Hedstedt and finally to Mucheln a small town in the vicinity of Halle for what appears to be a prolonged period of rest and rehabilitation. Maintenance is one of the most stressed phases of our present activities, particularly 1st and 2nd echelon, and our equipment is being rapidly put back into shape for whatever lies ahead.

COMPANY "B":

At the beginning of the month "B" Company was attached to Division Trains in the vicinity of Korbach, Germany, moving shortly thereafter to Haaren, thence to Alpen. From this area one platoon was detached to CC"R" furnishing maintenance by establishing vehicle collecting points as they moved with the combat command. On 7 April the company moved to Herste, the maintenance platoons taking with them the unfinished work from the previous area. Much of this work was completed here and on the 11th the company moved to Bishausen, leaving one platoon to complete the work. In this area wrecker crews worked day and night retrieving vehicles and moving them to vehicle collecting points for necessary maintenance. From the 16th to the 24th the entire company was bivouacked in the German airport at Köthen where between forty and fifty (40-50) German soldiers were apprehended in civilian clothes by the outposts. On the 24th this company moved to Sangerhausen, the present bivouac for a period of rest, rehabilitation and maintenance, although during division rest periods the greatest amount of work is accomplished by the Maintenance Battalion. During the month of April, 1945 this company marched a distance of three hundred and seven (307) miles, through country still not yet cleared of the enemy, and performing maintenance to enable the combat commands to maintain their steady drive.

