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143RD ARMORED SIGNAL COMPANY
THIRD ARMORED DIVISION

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AUTH: CG, 3d Arm'd Div
INITIALS: *DM*
Date: 2 May 1945

*Classification Changed per authority
HQ Letter 13 August 1945
Subj: Downgrading of Classified Record*

APO 253
c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.
2 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

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

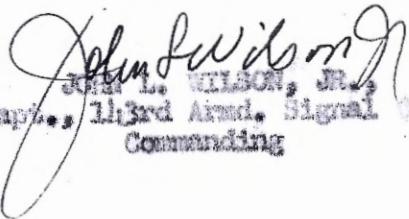
- a. Original Unit - 143rd Arm'd Signal Company. (No change)
- b. Changes in organization - No change.
- c. Strength - 1 April 1945: 325 Enlisted Men, 10 Officers.
30 April 1945: 321 Enlisted Men, 10 Officers.
Net decrease of 1 Enlisted Man for the period.
- d. Stations - In combat in European Theater of Operations in Germany.
- e. Marches - See Annex No. 1.
- f. Campaigns:
 - (1) Name of - Battle of Germany.
 - (2) Duration - 15 September 1944 to date.
 - (3) Purpose - Unconditional surrender of the German Army.
 - (4) Authority ordering - First United States Army.
- g. Battles - See Narrative Report.
- h. Commanding Officer - Capt. John L. Wilson, Jr.
- i. Losses in actions:
 - (1) Tsg 5 Norman W. Steele, 15326297, killed in action 16 Mar 1945 by ambush near Fernsdorf, Germany.
 - (2) Pfc Arthur E. Fischer, 36157366, killed in action 16 Mar 1945 by ambush near Fernsdorf, Germany.
 - (3) Pvt Donald R. Leinske, 36100840, seriously wounded in action 16 Mar 1945 by ambush near Fernsdorf, Germany.
 - (4) The following men reported missing on 30 Mar 1945 are now known to have been captured:
Tsg L Wesley D. Ellison, 18075906
Tsg L Neil E. Fleischer, 37016745
Pfc William T. Hatry, 12193672


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k. Photographs - None.

1. Inclosures - No. 1 Annex, Narrative Report
No. 2 Line Route Maps and Traffic Diagrams for the
month of March 1945.


JOHN L. WILSON, JR.,
Capt., 113rd Armd. Signal Co.,
Commanding



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ANNEX No. 1

After Action Report, 143rd Arm'd Signal Company, 3rd Armored Division
April 1945.

NARRATIVE

1. On the 1st of April the Division Command Post was located at Ebbeln, 6 miles south of Paderborn, Germany. Attempts were made during the day to gain radio contact with the 2nd Armored Division of the Ninth U. S. Army, approaching our spearhead from the west. Contact was gained but no traffic could be cleared. Radio contact was finally gained with the 2nd Armored Division at 2300 hours.

2. On the 2nd of April the Division Command Post moved to Nordbrochen as the Division consolidated its position around Paderborn after linking up with the Ninth Army at 011330. The Division Rear Echelon reported moving from Harburg to Korbach. Wire communication had been established with all units except the Rear Echelon.

3. On the 3rd the Division Rear Echelon moved to the area south of Paderborn, and wire communication was established to the rear elements. The Division continued in its position in the Paderborn area until the 6th, when it received orders to proceed eastward to the Weser River.

4. On the 6th the Division Command Post moved to Brakel, and preparations were made to bridge the Weser River following the establishment of a bridgehead by the infantry of the 1st and 10th Infantry Divisions.

5. On the 7th of April the Division Command Post and the 143rd Armored Signal Company moved from Brakel at 1000, following the 83rd Reconnaissance Bn. across the Weser and established a Command Post for the night at Addebeben.

6. From the 8th to the 14th the Division moved rapidly to the east in another breakthrough. Communication depended entirely upon radio. On the 14th the Division elements began closing in on Dessau on the Elbe River. The Division Command Post was set up at B-083580, and wire communication was established to the subordinate units as they moved into the area. Due to the fact that the area had not been swept by the infantry, it was dangerous for individuals and vehicles to travel on the roads.

7. On the 15th the Corps wire team was ambushed at Meileendorf while working on open wire circuits, and had five men wounded in action and one missing in action. These men were from the 50th Signal Bn.

8. On the 16th the situation was still fluid, and the Division continued mopping up operations in preparation for the assault on Dessau. Pfc 5 Steele and Pfc Fisher were killed in action and Pvt Leineke wounded in action, of our Combat Command "A" Detachment, early in the morning by ambush just out of the Combat Command "A" Command Post.

9. The Division continued its assault, and on the 22nd the town of Dessau was cleared, and plans were made to move the Division in an occupation area in the vicinity of Sangerhausen. Advance communication plans were made, and the Advance Division Command Post was established at Sangerhausen. Wire teams were dispatched to rehabilitate commercial circuits existing in that area, as distances were too great to utilize field wire.

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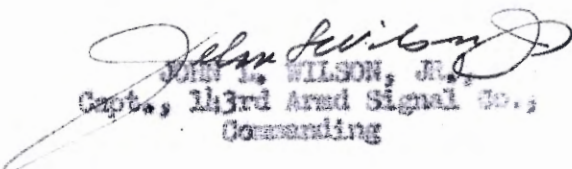
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ANNEX No. 1 (CONT'D)

10. On the 23rd, Division elements started moving to the new area, and as they moved in, telephone communication was established.

11. On the 24th, the Division continued the process of being relieved by the 9th Infantry Division and moving to the new area.

12. On the 25th, the company settled down for a period of maintenance, rehabilitation, and recreation, while awaiting official announcement of V-E day.


JOHN L. WILSON, JR.,
Capt., 143rd Armd Signal Co.,
Commanding

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