

HEADQUARTERS  
391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion  
APO 253, U. S. Army



ACTION AGAINST ENEMY, AFTER ACTION REPORT  
for the month of  
APRIL 1945.

1. ORGANIZATION. The unit designation of this organization for the entire month of April 1945 has been the 391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion. During the entire month this unit has been assigned to the Third Armored Division. The battalion has been under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George G. Garton for the entire month.

During the month of April 1945 this battalion has supported units as follows:

- 01 0001 April to 24 1500 April 1945 - Direct support of Combat Command "B", Third Armored Division.
- 24 1500 April to 30 2400 April 1945 - Period of rest and maintenance.

2. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION. The strength of the 391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion as of 1 April 1945 was 89 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 633 enlisted men. The strength of the organization as of 30 April 1945 was 34 officers, 1 warrant officer and 532 enlisted men. The battalion sustained a net loss in personnel during the month of 5 officers and 1 enlisted men. As of 30 April 1945 the battalion was 7 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 41 enlisted men under the authorized T/O strength.

3. AWARDS.

Silver Star

- Awarded per par II, GO 50, Hq 3rd Arm Div, 26 April 1945.
- 1st Lt William L. Plummer, 01168417
- Cpl Roland L. Mulece, 37032654, Btry A.
- Tec 5 Hubert E. Horton, 36168028, Hq Btry.
- PFC Theodore J. Steck, 36169800, Hq Btry.

Bronze Star

- Awarded per par IV, GO 43, Hq 3rd Arm Div, 8 April 1945.
- Captain Finis G. Wallace, 01166856

Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

- Awarded per par III, GO 44, Hq 3rd Arm Div, 7 April 1945.
- 2d Lt Victor W. Grotlisch, 01999893 (3rd oak leaf cluster)

4. CASUALTIES.

Wounded and Evacuated.

- 2d Lt Wilson J. Clark, SWA 7 April 1945 - reported died of wounds 7 April 1945.
- Pvt George W. A. Dubose, Hq Btry, LWA, 10 April 1945.

(Hq 391st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945)

**CASUALTIES (continued)**

**Wounded and evacuated (continued)**

PFC Persie McConnell, Btry A, LWA, 14 April 1945.  
PFC James A. Wratford, Btry A, LWA, 14 April 1945.  
Cpl Norman R. Braun, Btry B, LWA, 15 April 1945.  
Tec 4 Gene W. Cramer, Btry B, LWA, 16 April 1945.  
Tec 5 Melvin A. Hynum, Btry C, LWA, 16 April 1945.  
Tec 5 Wilbur H. Lyons, Btry A, LWA, 17 April 1945.

**Injured in Action and Evacuated.**

Tec 5 Louis F. Olszewski, Btry B, LIA, 6 April 1945.

**Injured non-battle and evacuated.**

PFC Lewis A. Elder, Btry B, lightly injured 13 April 1945.  
PFC Emil Krenek, Btry A, lightly injured 25 April 1945.  
Pvt Henry M. Lail, Sv Btry, lightly injured 25 April 1945.  
Captain Francis C. Mayer, lightly injured 28 April 1945.

**Evacuated sick.**

2d Lt Richard J. Arnold, 1 April 1945.  
PFC Robert R. Rhoten, Hq Btry, 1 April 1945. Returned to duty  
29 April 1945.  
PFC Milton O. Fischer, Btry A, 4 April 1945.  
Sgt John A. Jones, Hq Btry, 4 April 1945. Returned to duty 7 Apr 1945.  
PFC James E. Carnathan, Btry A, 5 April 1945.  
Cpl Lloyd H. Patterson, Btry C, 6 April 1945.  
1st Lt William I. France, 7 April 1945. Returned to duty 13 Apr 1945.  
Pvt Jack Lipschits, Btry A, 7 April 1945.  
Pvt Paul Novak, Btry A, 7 April 1945.  
Captain Henry D. Shellhart, 11 April 1945. Returned to duty 15 Apr 45.  
Tec 5 George Fenn, Btry A, 9 April 1945. Returned to duty 11 Apr 1945.  
Pvt Ellis M. Aplin, Btry A, 9 April 1945. Returned to duty 11 Apr 1945.  
Pvt Guy T. Brown, Hq Btry, 11 April 1945. Returned to duty 13 Apr 1945.  
Sgt John A. Jones, Hq Btry, 20 April 1945. Returned to duty 22 Apr 45.  
Tec 5 Frank J. Pacl, Btry B, 27 April 1945.  
Pvt Paul D. Owens, Hq Btry, 27 April 1945.  
Tec 5 William L. Hodd, Btry C, 28 April 1945.  
Tec 5 Lewis A. Mills, Btry C, 28 April 1945.  
Tec 5 Francis L. Kaloski, Sv Btry, 29 April 1945.  
PFC Norman J. Marchand, Btry B, 29 April 1945.

**Wounded but remained on duty.**

Tec 4 William J. Overes, Btry A, LWA, 14 April 1945.  
PFC Nicholas Brink, Hq Btry, LWA, 14 April 1945.  
PFC Emil Krenek, Btry A, LWA, 14 April 1945.  
Pvt Paul W. Regan, Hq Btry, LWA, 19 April 1945.

**5. REINFORCEMENTS.**

Tec 5 Jerry T. Lilley, Sv Btry, returned to duty 3 April 1945.  
Tec 5 George Fenn, Btry A, returned to duty 8 April 1945.  
S/Sgt Charles Scenzo, Hq Btry, returned to duty 11 April 1945.

(Hq 391st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945)

REINFORCEMENTS (continued)

1st Sgt Chester W. Moaley, Btry A, returned to duty 16 April 1945.  
Pvt Richard A. Pedigo, Btry A, returned to duty 26 April 1945.  
Captain Jack E. Shangold - formerly attached for duty, assigned to organization 27 April 1945.  
Pvt George W.A. Dubose, Hq Btry, returned to duty 29 April 1945.  
PFC Robert R. Rhoten, Hq Btry, returned to duty 29 April 1945.  
Cpl Raymond L. Leviner, Btry C, returned to duty 29 April 1945.  
Pvt James F. O. Conley, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Albert L. Cox, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Walter J. Kaszuk, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Walter Kokoski, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Philip Maron, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Louis W. Parker, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Ramon Martinez, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Henry L. Ward, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Tommy Watson, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Harrison E. Willet, 30 April 1945.  
Pvt Lloyd F. Williams, 30 April 1945.

6. NARRATIVE. On 1 April 1945 the battalion was in position near Hamborn, about five miles south of Paderborn, Germany and fired direct support missions for both task forces of Combat Command "B", Third Armored Division. TF Welborn of CC"B" attacked towards Paderborn at 0600 hours and reached the town by 0655 hours. Enemy infantry and roving tanks and self propelled guns opposed the advance. By 1700 hours the northeast portion of the town had been secured. TF Lovelady of CC"B" attacked Paderborn at 0800 hours and advanced initially against no resistance, entering the town at 0940 hours. The advance thru the town was opposed by small arms and anti-tank fire. The southeast portion of the town was secured by 1700 hours. In support of these attacks the battalion this date fired 9 missions: 1 on the town, of Paderborn, 1 on trucks, 2 on trains, 1 on machine guns, 2 on infantry, 1 on tanks and 1 registration. Total rounds expended this date - 305. One train was stopped by direct hits, and two trucks were reported knocked out.

1 April 1945 Btry C moved one M-7 up to fire on a tank which had been abandoned by the enemy. This gun fired HEAT shells both on the front and sides of the Mark VI (Tiger) tank at a range of about 200 yards. The shells ricocheted off the front after cutting about a three inch groove in the frontal armour. The shells pierced the side of the tank and exploded on the inside.

On 2 April 1945 CC"B" continued to secure the northeast and southeast portions of Paderborn. Div Arty Comd, 3rd Armd Div, sent liaison planes up in an effort to contact the 2d Armd Div. Physical contact with the 2d Armd Div was made by elements of the 3rd Armd Div in Lippstadt at 1530 hours thus closing the Ruhr pocket. The battalion remained in position at Hamborn to give direct support to CC"B". The battalion fired only 1 registration this date expending 54 rounds. Battalion reconnaissance elements were sent to select new positions in the vicinity of Dahl.

On 3 April 1945 CC"B" held defensive positions in the vicinity of Paderborn and maintained roadblocks. The battalion remained in position to give support to CC"B". The battalion fired only one registration this date expending 25 rounds.

On 4 April 1945 CC"B" was relieved in Paderborn by TF Kane and both task forces closed in defensive positions for the night in the vicinity of Herbram. Per

(Hq 391st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945.)

Operations Memorandum 36, Hq 3rd Armd Div, 4 April 1945 CC"B" will attack 5 April to seize the high ground north of Hebram, clear the wooded area in this sector and reconnoiter objectives east of Schwany. At 1500 hours this battalion began displacing from positions at Hamborn and by 1630 hours had closed in position at Derhningen. The battalion registered from this position expending 37 rounds. Defensive fires were planned for the night. No resistance developed and these defensive fires were not fired.

Operations Memorandum 37, Hq 3rd Armd Div, 5 April 1945, ordered CC"B" to send reconnaissance forward rapidly to seize and secure the high ground in the vicinity of Gieselwerder. Bridges over the Weser River at Gieselwerder and Carlshafen were reported intact. An attempt will be made to secure these bridges. TF Welborn attacked east from the vicinity of Dahl at 1200 hours, with TF Lovelady attacking along a parallel route at the same time. Both of the limited objectives were secured by 1615 hours against no opposition. Operations Memorandum 38, Hq 3rd Armd Div, 5 April 1945 ordered CCFB" to continue the advance east to seize and secure the highground in the vicinity of Bilshausen and the high ground in the vicinity of Rollshausen. Both task forces continued the attack at 2120 hours and for the night TF Welborn held positions near Siddesen and TF Lovelady held positions near Willegassen.

The battalion displaced with the attack of TF Welborn at 1200 hours 5 April 1945 and closed in position near Herbram about 1700 hours. The battalion registered in this position expending 37 rounds. The battalion displaced forward with the attack again at 2130 hours and for the night was coiled with the task force west of Siddesen. The battalion moved into this coil position at 2315 hours.

On 6 April 1945 TF Welborn continued the advance east. Heavy bazooka fire was encountered near Hainholtz. Borgholtz was defended by small arms fire but this resistance was overcome by 0935 hours. Infantry mopped up the woods and the task force advanced against moderate resistance and secured Haarbruck and consolidated there for the night. The battalion which had coiled for the night displaced forward and closed in positions about 1000 yards northwest of Frohnshn at 0615 hours. The battalion again displaced forward to support the attack of CCB and closed in position at Borgholz at 1100 hours. At 1630 hours the battalion displaced forward with the attack. About 2000 yards west of Manrode an enemy roadblock was encountered and the battalion column crossed an open field to by-pass this obstacle. All the M-7's got thru the open field but the half-tracks and other vehicles bogged down. As the battalion crossed the field a three or four gun battery laid fire on this field from 1900 to 1915 hours. As the fire was walked across the field the vehicles managed to keep just ahead of the fire. But then suddenly everything bogged down. Fire continued to fall in the portion of the field just vacated, but none fell among the bogged-down vehicles. T 2's and M-7's worked until midnight towing out vehicles to a lane where solid road was found. Half-tracks winched each other out. The firing batteries, M-7's only, managed to close in position just west of Manrode by 2030 hours, but the remainder of the battalion stopped on the lane just off the field. The battalion suffered no casualties as a result of this shelling. The battalion fired 6 missions this date in close support of the attack of TF Welborn: 3 on infantry, 1 neutralization mission, 1 harrassing mission and 1 on a town. Total rounds expended this date - 533.

TF Welborn attacked at 0630 hours 7 April 1945 and immediately encountered an enemy road block. This obstacle was reduced and the advance continued against light opposition. At 1100 hours this force entered Herstelle where direct fire from both sides of the river was encountered. At 1115 hours a force was sent to secure Carlshafen. This force encountered artillery, bazooka and small arms fire during the advance and in the town itself. Stubborn resistance was overcome in the two towns and

(Hq 391st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945.)

by 1800 hours Herstelle and Carlshafen were secure. The battalion displaced with the attack of TF Welborn at 1100 hours and at 1230 hours closed in position near Haarbruck. The battalion fired 16 missions this date: 1 on a roadblock, 5 on infantry, 2 on guns, 3 on personnel, 5 harassing missions, 1 smoke concentration, and 1 registration. Total rounds expended this date - 1427. The two gun positions were reported neutralized. Harassing fire was placed on the bridge at Carlshafen to prevent the enemy from using or destroying the bridge. Despite this fire the bridge was destroyed before our forces reached the town. In the attack 2d Lt Merritt's FO tank was knocked out by direct fire. There were no casualties in the section. 2d Lt Clark FO with the infantry was seriously wounded by sniper fire and evacuated.

CCB sent out patrols to clear the wooded area in this zone and a patrol of TF Welborn cleared the road from Carlshafen along the river to Warmbeck. At the end of the day CCB was being relieved by elements of the 1st Inf Div. Operations Memorandum 40, Hq 3rd Armd Div, 8 April 1945, ordered CCB upon being relieved by the 1st Inf Div to move south through the area occupied by the 104th Inf Div across the Weser River and into assembly positions. The battalion remained in position near Haarbruck and fired missions for forward observers and the air OP trying to knock out SP guns east of the Weser River which were shelling the leading elements. The battalion fired 8 missions this date: 1 on guns, 2 on suspected guns, 1 on a road junction, 1 on SS Hq, 1 on a building, and 1 registration. Total rounds expended this date - 320.

On 9 April 1945 CCB was relieved by elements of the 1st Inf Div by 0600 hours and moved in a single column to assembly positions, crossing the Weser River at Gieselwerder. Because of the rapid advance of CC Howe, CCB was ordered to proceed through the assembly area and proceed toward the objectives Bilshausen, Gieboldehausen and Duderstadt. TF Welborn encountered dug in enemy infantry along the road and engaged with enemy tanks in the late afternoon. Supporting aircraft knocked out 2 tanks and 3 were destroyed by tank fire. The battalion displaced at 0800 hours from positions near Haarbruck, joined the CCB column and began crossing the Weser River at Gieselwerder at 0950 hours. The battalion coiled near Offensen at 1050 hours, displaced forward again at 1230 hours. The battalion coiled again at 1400 hours west of Asche. At 1915 hours the battalion displaced forward and closed in position for the night east of Asche at 1930 hours. The battalion fired 6 missions this date: 4 on towns, 1 on tanks, and 1 registration. Total rounds expended this date - 375.

On 10 April 1945 CCB attacked east at 0630 hours and made good progress against light resistance. The battalion displaced with the attack of TF Welborn at 0830 hours and coiled at 1645 hours. The battalion displaced forward at 1940 hours and was still on the road at midnight closing in position at 0330 hours 11 April near Grosawechnungen. The battalion fired 13 missions this date: 5 on towns, 4 on vehicles, 1 on guns, 2 on infantry, and 1 smoke concentration. Total rounds expended - 834. Two vehicles were reported knocked out by the fire of this battalion. The gun position was neutralized.

11 April 1945 CCB resumed the attack east to seize Nordhausen. Both task forces moved into the town without opposition and by 1230 hours the town was secured. The battalion displaced forward at 1100 hours and closed in position one mile west of Nordhausen at 1300 hours. The battalion fired 5 missions this date: 1 on infantry, and 4 registrations. Total rounds expended - 55.

12 April 1945 TF Welborn attacked at 0700 hours and advanced rapidly against no resistance until anti-tank fire was encountered in the vicinity of Beyernaumburg. The battalion displaced forward with this attack at 0700 hours and marched rapidly going into a coil east of Saundershausen at 1300 hours. The battalion fired a mission on the town of Beyernaumburg expending 480 rounds of mixed impact and white phosphorous. At

(Hq 391st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945)

1500 hours the battalion displaced forward and closed in position for the night at Beyernaumberg at 1545 hours. The battalion registered in this position and planned defensive fires.

13 April 1945 TF Welborn attacked at 0700 hours and advanced against moderate resistance until halted by direct fire from 88mm dual purpose guns in the vicinity of Welferode. After overcoming this resistance the force continued the advance knocking out numerous 88's. The town Eisleben was declared open and no resistance was encountered there. Poelleben was entered at 1300 hours against moderate resistance. In this town a PW camp was overrun and 430 British POW including over 300 officers were liberated. The force continued to advance and at 1515 hours entered Friedeburg, cleared the town and put infantry across the river and had a bridge under construction by 2400 hours. At dusk 2d Lt Root was ferried across the Saale River with the infantry establishing a bridgehead to give supporting observed fire to the bridgehead forces if required.

The battalion displaced with the attack of TF Welborn at 0700 hours and marched until 1000 hours when the battalion closed in positions at Bornstedt. The 183rd Field Artillery in the 391st FA groupment followed behind this battalion and closed in position in this area. The town of Welferode was occupied by enemy infantry and anti-tank guns. The groupment laid heavy fire on the town. This battalion fired a total of 850 rounds of mixed HE impact and white phosphorous. The battalion displaced forward at 1300 hours and closed in position at Freist at 1700 hours. The battalion fired 10 missions this date: 1 on anti-tank gun, 2 on a town, 4 on infantry, 2 harassing missions and 1 registration. Total rounds expended - 1807. The anti-tank gun was knocked out by fire of this battalion.

14 April 1945 TF Welborn crossed the Saale River as soon as the bridge was completed at 0700 hours, coiled on the east bank, and attacked at 0915 hours against light opposition at first. The force quickly knocked out spotted resistance and advanced rapidly to the west bank of the Mulde River. Patrols pushed forward in an effort to secure a bridge across the river intact. The battalion displaced with the attack of TF Welborn at 0845 hours from positions at Freist, crossed the Saale on the pontoon bridge and marched rapidly throughout the day. The battalion closed in position for the night one mile northeast of Lingenau, and awaited the construction of a bridge across the Mulde. The battalion fired 6 missions this date: 2 on infantry, 2 harassing missions, and 2 registrations. Total rounds expended - 476. Just west of Torman, the battalion was strafed two times while on the road. About 1400 hours 10 ME 109's flew over the column, circled and strafed across the column. The vehicles quickly dispersed into the open field and opened fire with all 50 caliber machine guns. At 1415 hours as the battalion pulled off into the field again three ME 109's again strafed across the column. This plane was followed by a P-51. Of this group of attacking planes the anti-aircraft battery knocked down one and the P 51 shot down another one. As a result of this attack two enlisted men were wounded and evacuated and three others were lightly wounded but remained on duty.

15 April 1945 TF Welborn lifted artillery fire from the bridge across the Mulde River at 0445 hours and sent a patrol to investigate the bridge. The bridge was blown and the site strongly defended. A company of infantry and a company of tanks were moved in to position for a crossing. Infantry crossed on the wreckage of the blown bridge and bridging equipment was moved up. TF Lovelady attacked east at 0600 hours and advanced against moderate to heavy resistance from small arms and bazookas. One battle group was sent to clear the town of Thurland and the woods north from there and to make contact with TF Welborn. This force killed 80, captured 255 and destroyed one SP gun. The battalion remained in position 1 mile northeast of Lingenau awaiting

(Hq 891st and FA Bn, 19 Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945)

construction of the bridge across the Mulde. The battalion received light artillery fire near the positions. No casualties were inflicted by this fire. The battalion fired 20 missions this date: 1 on infantry and machine guns, 1 on a town, 6 harrasing missions, 6 on infantry, 1 on mortars, 2 smoke concentrations, 1 on a building, and 2 registrations. Total rounds expended this date - 999. Mortar positions were reported neutralized.

16 April 1945 TF Welborn continued mopping up operations in its zone, held the bridgehead over the Mulde River and continued bridging operations. Bridge construction was impeded by difficult terrain at the south approach and harrasing enemy artillery fire. The battalion remained in position northeast of Lingenu in direct support of CC"B". Sv Btry was in position just north of Torton conducting normal maintenance and supply functions. The battalion fired 18 missions this date: 7 on counter-attacks against the bridgehead, 5 on infantry, 1 preparation, 1 on an OP, 1 on guns, 1 on a town and 2 registrations. Total rounds expended this date - 857.

17 April 1945 TF Welborn continued to secure the bridgehead over the Mulde River and construction of a treadyway bridge continued until 1845 hours when orders were issued to discontinue construction of the bridge and withdraw the bridgehead forces. The battalion remained in position northeast of Lingenu to give direct support to CC"B". The battalion fired 20 missions this date: 5 on counter-attacks, 7 on infantry, 3 smoke missions to mark targets for fighter bombers, 1 on a town, 3 on guns, and 1 harrasing mission. Total rounds expended this date - 771.

18 April 1945 CC"B" maintained defensive positions from Torton to Rodgen. TF Welborn withdrew his bridgehead forces to the west side of the Mulde River under cover of darkness in the early morning. Patrols moving from Torton to contact CC Doan received heavy anti-tank and small arms fire and were unable to effect contact. The battalion remained in position northeast of Lingenu and fired close support missions for CC"B". The battalion fired 16 missions this date: 1 on an OP, 4 on towns, 3 smoke missions to mark targets for fighter bombers, 6 on infantry, 1 on tanks and 2 registrations. Total rounds expended this date - 586. In the morning the anti-aircraft unit attached to Hq Btry captured 8 prisoners in the woods near the battery.

19 April 1945 CC"B" continued to operate patrols within this sector. TF Welborn attacked north to seize the crossroad north of Torton. Moderate resistance from artillery, small arms and bazooka fire was encountered. Roadblocks were set up in the vicinity of the crossroad and maintained throughout the night. The battalion remained in position and fired direct support missions for CC"B". The battalion fired 9 missions this date: 2 smoke concentrations, 1 on an OP, 2 on infantry, 2 harrasing missions and 2 registrations. Total rounds expended this date - 458. Smoke missions were fired to mark targets for P-38's which bombed the bridge across the Mulde at Ragnan. 2d Lt Merritt and 1d Lt Kidridge, forward observers, were relieved and returned to the battalion for maintenance of the tanks.

20 April 1945 TF Welborn continued to push throughout the night and early morning against small arms, artillery and mortar fire and by 1000 hours had secured a critical strong point north of Torton. A combat patrol swept towns in the southern part of the division sector which had not been gone through during the initial advance of the division. No resistance was encountered and about 80 POW were captured. Operations Memorandum 47, Hq 3rd Armd Div, 20 April 1945, ordered the 3rd Armd Div to attack 21 April to seize and secure Deasau and also to continue to secure the west bank of the Mulde River in the division zone. The battalion remained in position and fired 11 missions this date in support of CC"B": 4 on infantry, 2 on vehicles, 1 on a house, 1 on mortars, 1 harrasing mission, and 2 registrations. Mortar positions were neutralized. Missions on infantry were reported very effective. Total rounds expended this date - 566. The anti-aircraft unit which was being used for outpost defense of Hq Btry captured 8 prisoners this date and a patrol organized by

(Hq 891st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945)



Hq Btry captured 2 others.

21 April 1945 CC"B" attacked north to seize Raghun. TF Welborn advanced at 0530 hours against light artillery and mortar fire, encountering one light flak battery. This force made contact with CC'Doen. TF Lovelady after seizing Raghun attacked south and cleared the area as far south as Jessnitz, made contact with TF Richardson, but was not committed to the attack on Jessnitz. The battalion remained in position northeast of Lingenu and fired direct support missions for the attack of CC"B". The battalion fired 21 missions this date: 1 preparation, 1 on guns, 6 on infantry, 1 on a town, 1 on a CP, 1 on a crossroad, 9 harrasing missions, and 1 TOT. Total rounds expended - 577. Gun position was reported neutralized. Missions on infantry were reported very effective.

22 April 1945 CC"B" continued to maintain defensive positions and secure its zone. At 1615 elements of the 9th Inf Div relieved TF Lovelady and this force moved out of the division area. The battalion remained in position in direct support of CC"B". Division Artillery fired a 21 volley salute to the Russians at 1200 hours. All division artillery and attached artillery fired in this salute. The target was the town of Mildensee. A mixture of impact and white phosphorus was fired. Brigadier General Budinot (CCB) and Lt Col Garton observed the mission from the cub planes of this battalion. Col Brown (Div Arty Comdr) observed from a Div Arty plane. Results were reported as excellent. In timing the gun sections for the 21 volleys, the fastest gun was the 6th gun section of Btry B (Sgt Wicklund) all rounds on the way in 65 seconds. The last gun to cease firing was the 2d gun section of Btry A in 1 minute and 45 seconds. The battalion fired 5 missions this date: 1 TOT, 3 harrasing missions and 1 registration. Total rounds expended - 507.

23 April 1945 TF Welborn continued to secure the CCB sector of the division zone. Instructions were received that the 9th Inf Div would relieve TF Welborn on 24 April and that the battalion would move to assembly positions in the vicinity of Sangerhausen. At 1330 hours Hq Btry (-FDC) and Sv Btry displaced from positions and marched to the assembly positions. Sv Btry closed in position at Oberroblingen and Hq Btry closed in position at Hackpuffel. The firing elements of the battalion remained in position to give direct support to the defense of the TF Welborn area. About 1315 hours several rounds of artillery fell in Lingenu setting a house on fire. The air CP was unable to pick up the guns. Division artillery kept a plane up all day looking for the advancing Russians. Just at dark the cub spotted flashes from the Russian artillery north and south of Wittenburg. The battalion fired 4 missions this date: 3 harrasing missions and 1 registration. Total rounds expended - 153.

24 April 1945 the 9th Inf Div relieved CCB by 1345 hours and CCB began the move to the assembly area in the vicinity of Sangerhausen. The battalion firing elements remained in position northeast of Lingenu and fired at targets of opportunity. The battalion fired 11 missions this date: 3 on towns, 6 on strongpoints, 1 harrasing mission and 1 registration. Total rounds expended - 916. The last mission was a harrasing mission fired by Btry B. The last round was fired by the 2d gun section of Btry B (Sgt Wascon). - the 170,100th round fired by the battalion since landing in Normandy. Sgt Wascon's gun section also fired the 1st round to be fired against the enemy in Normandy.

At 1345 hours the FDC and the firing batteries displaced from position and marched to the assembly area - Btry A at Oberroblingen, Btry B at Richmordhausen, Btry C at Edersleben, and FDC closed in position at Hackpuffel with the rest of the Hq Btry. The 488th AAA Bn was relieved from the battalion this date and returned to its own assembly area. The battalion convoy marched to the assembly area without the added anti-aircraft protection.



(Hq 891st Armd FA Bn, Action Against Enemy, After Action Report, April 1945.)

25 April 1945 the battalion remained in the assembly area conducting rest and maintenance. The battalion assumed the responsibility for the military government of the area. Patrol routes were set up and a patrol assigned to each battery. Check points were set up along the routes and the patrols checked in by radio with FLC where close watch was kept over the progress of the patrol. Patrolling at night was done in a half-track, in the day in a jeep. The night of 25 April the Sv Btry patrol ran into trouble when people in the town of Martinstadt refused to obey the curfew. The patrol fired about 60 rounds of 30 and 50 caliber ammunition over the heads of the offenders and they hurried into their houses. These people caused no further trouble.

26 April 1945 the battalion conducted its routine patrols and conducted rest and maintenance. Instructions were received to be prepared to move from this position to another assembly area east of Sangerhausen. All batteries sent out reconnaissance and orders were issued to the Burgemeister to clear the houses to be used as billets.

27 April 1945 Btry Head Btry C terminated their patrols at 1200 hours and displaced to new assembly positions at Kittenhausen and Götterstedt. The remaining patrols reported no unusual occurrences. Hq Btry pick up 4 men in civilian clothes who were more than 5 kilometers from their home and these men were turned over to the military government in Sangerhausen.

28 April 1945 Btry A, Sv Btry and Hq Btry displaced at 1230 hours to the new assembly positions. As Capt Meyer, Hq Btry CO, was returning to get the battery and lead them to the new positions, the jeep in which he was riding ran into the rear of another jeep. Capt Meyer was lightly injured and evacuated, 1st Lt Karl E. Patton assumed command of the battery. The remainder of the battalion had closed in the new area by 1800 hours.

In the new assembly area patrols were set up on the order of the former patrols and various routes assigned to the batteries. Patrols started at 0700 hours. No unusual occurrences were reported.

In the early morning hours 29 April 1945 the telephone communications between Bn Hq and Btry B were out off. In the morning the wire patrol found a spot in Hinsdorf where the wire had been cut. The break was repaired and then the Battery Commander notified of the incident. Capt Crafts went to talk to the Burgemeister about the matter in the afternoon and while still talking to him the wire communications were again disrupted. This time the wire had been pulled across the road and in one place the insulation had been beat off the wire with rocks and the wire thus grounded out. Later that evening the Burgemeister was given until noon 30 April to produce the culprit.

30 April 1945 a force of about 40 men, 2 M-7's, and 2 half-tracks went to the town of Hinsdorf to enforce disciplinary action upon the civilians as the culprit had not been produced. CIC men accompanied this group. All the people of the town were rounded up and with the help of a few of the people these men were able to find 3 boys who admitted tearing up the telephone line. These boys were sent to the PA enclosure. No further action was taken. The remainder of the day there were no unusual events.

Since the battalion landed in Normandy, France 170,100 rounds have been fired. 12, 770 rounds were fired during the month of April.

During the month of April the morale of the battalion has been excellent. The combat efficiency of the battalion is excellent.

VINIS C. WALLACE,  
Captain, 891st Armd Field Artillery Bn,  
Battalion Historian.