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HEADQUARTERS
67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
APO #255, U. S. Army



1 May 1945.

Subject: Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports.

To : The Adjutant General,
U. S. Army,
Washington, 25, D. C.
(Thru Channels)

Transmitted herewith Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports in accordance with paragraph 10(c3) AR 345-105 for the 67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, month of April 1945.

Edward S. Berry

EDWARD S. BERRY
Lt. Colonel, 67th Armd Field Artillery Bn.,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS
67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
APO #253, U. S. Army

1 May 1945.

REPORTS AFTER ACTION AGAINST ENEMY, APRIL 1945



In accordance with AR345-105 the following information is submitted:

- a. Original Unit: No change
- b. Changes in organization: 67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and 54th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and 188th Field Artillery Battalion formed 67th Armored Field Artillery Groupment from 5 April to 8 April inclusive. 67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and 391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion formed 391st Armored Field Artillery Groupment from 9 April to 15 April inclusive. 67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and 991st Field Artillery Battalion formed 67th Armored Field Artillery Groupment from 17 April to 25 April inclusive.
- c. Strength: 1 April 1945 - 41 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 627 E.M.
30 April 1945 - 37 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 629 E.M.

d. Stations:	<u>DATE ARR</u>	<u>DATE DEP</u>
Lippstadt, WG4241	1	4
Wewer, WG6644	4	5
Schwaney, WG4783	5	6
Rothe, WGO640	6	7
Dalhausen, WGO739	7	9
Leuglern, WG3348	9	10
Grosswerther, WGO923	10	11
Nordhausen, WG1225	11	12
Allstedt, WG5318	12	13
Zernitz, WG7737	13	14
Stamsdorf, WG9944	14	15
Hinsdorf, WGO056	15	16
Quellendorf, RDO359	16	20
Kochstedt, RD6264	20	26
Walbeck, RD5847	26	29
Querfurt, RD6916	29	--

- e. Marches: See Narrative attached
- f. Campaigns: Central European Campaign
- g. Battles: See Narrative attached
- h. Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel Edward S. Berry, O18119, 1 April to 30 April inclusive.
- i. Losses in Action:

<u>NAME & ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Pfc Kelly, Daniel V., 36314194	LWA	* 30 Mar
Pvt Glatt, Lester E., 34230571	LWA	* 30 Mar

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<u>NAME & ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Tec 5 Buoy, Willis S., 38129340	DOW	* 30 Mar
Pvt Butler, Harry, 32757701	LWA	* 30 Mar
Pfc Killen, Harold M., 37032557	KIA	1
Pvt Boudrie, Kenneth L., 36993232	LWA	2
Pfc Bowden, A. J., 38032772	LIA	2
Pvt Burkhardt, Samuel L., 38926094	KIA	6
Pfc Fredyna, Edmund, 31346220	LWA	6
Pfc Christodulu, Dimos, 32177966	LWA	6
Cpl Bright, Arthur N., 14000909	LWA	6
Pvt Killiam, Charles R., 35283902	LIA	6
2nd Lt Sarver, William A., 01170962	KIA	6
S/Sgt Cavaiami, Vincent E., 36036350	LWA	6
Tec 4 Biancalana, Eugene J., 36036069	LWA	6
Pfc Kish, Mike P., 35304600	LWA	6
Pfc Leonardo, Manuel G., 31245416	SWA	6
Cpl Taylor, James G., 32206461	LWA	14
2nd Lt Wright, James V., 01182314	LWA	16
2nd Lt Beilke, Karl J., 02005499	LWA	16
Tec 5 Swearingon, William E., 6941188	LWA	16
Pfc Strommen, Eldor J., 37311892	KIA	16
Pfc Hughes, Henry J., 19071010	LWA	16
Pfc Cardeans, John, 36043516	DOW	17
1st Lt Hart, Leroy G. Jr., 01171579	KIA	19
Sgt Nielsen, Arthur A., 20651989	LIA	24



* These EM were not included in Losses in Action for March as they were not dropped from assignment until after 1 April.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

Sgt Vernon J. Stromberg, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal,
GO #50 Hq 3d Armd Div., 26 April 1945.
Tec 5 Ernest Combs, Silver Star Medal, GO #43 Hq 3d Armd Div., 6 April
1945.
Captain Hubert G. Morgan, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal,
GO #43 Hq 3d Armd Div., 6 April 1945.
1st Lt Chester L. McClure, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal,
GO #43 Hq 3d Armd Div., 6 April 1945.
2nd Lt Claude E. Wood, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal,
GO #43 Hq 3d Armd Div., 6 April 1945.
Sgt Edward J. Atanasio, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal,
GO #43 Hq 3d Armd Div., 6 April 1945.
1st Lt Richard R. Woelling, Bronze Star Medal, GO #43, Hq 3d Armd Div.,
6 April 1945.
2nd Lt John S. Hayes, Bronze Star Medal, GO #43, Hq 3d Armd Div., 6
April 1945.
Tec 5 Herbert O. Miracle, Bronze Star Medal, GO #43, Hq 3d Armd Div.,
6 April 1945.
Pfc David Glickman, Bronze Star Medal, GO #43, Hq 3d Armd Div., 6
April 1945.
Pfc Peter G. Guire, Bronze Star Medal, GO #43, Hq 3d Armd Div., 6
April 1945.
Tec 5 Ernest Combs, Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal, GO #44,
Hq 3d Armd Div., 7 April 1945.

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1st Lt Walter E. Perd, Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal, GO #44,
Hq 3d Armd Div., 7 April 1945.

Pfc Robert D. Silver, Bronze Star Medal, GO #45, Hq 3d Armd Div., 10
April 1945.

k. Photographs: None

l. Inclosures: S-3 Logs for the month of April.



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NARRATIVE OF COMBAT ACTION OF THE
67TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, MONTH OF APRIL 1945



During the night of March 31 - April 1 the Third Armored Division was heavily engaged with Panzer Units south of Paderborn with combat commands abreast. Combat Command B was on the right, Combat Command R on the left and Combat Command A in reserve. During the night Combat Command R captured the high ground north of Nordborchen which was to be used as the line of departure for Combat Command A in the final attack. The 67th Arm Field Artillery had been in direct support of Task Force Richardson of Combat Command R. It was intended that the 54th and 67th in groupment support Combat Command A as it passed through Combat Command R.

At 0330, April 1st orders were received that Task Force Kane of Combat Command A with the 67th in direct support would not participate in this attack but would move to the vicinity of Lippstadt (42 42), thirty kilometers to the west to effect a junction with the Second Armored Division of the Ninth U. S. Army. The 54th was directed to take over support of Task Force X (Boles).

At 0700 the battalion left positions at Alfen and joined Task Force Kane at a road junction 1000 meters south of Oberntudorf.

Our first objective was the town of Geseke. The town was occupied by a battalion of Hungarian anti-aircraft troops and other miscellaneous forces. Our leading double company was in the city before the enemy realized they were being attacked. Four dual purpose 88mm guns and a number of soft vehicles of all types were overrun and destroyed. One of our task force tanks was lost by 88 fire. Two of these guns were overrun by the tanks without firing a shot. The other two were neutralized by artillery fire adjusted by the Battalion Commander and then captured by the infantry. The entire enemy force was killed or captured together with about twenty vehicles of all types.

The advance proceeded to Stormede where two more dual purpose 88's were neutralized by fire adjusted by Captain Van Fleet. They were then assaulted by our infantry and destroyed. Many other remunerative targets consisting of enemy vehicles and infantry were taken under fire and destroyed. Battery C fired some direct fire missions to suppress enemy activity on a bypassed enemy airfield south of Stormede at coordinates 50 35. Road blocks were left and movement proceeded through Langensiecke and Bockenforde against light opposition. The latter town was strongly blocked toward the south and west by some of Kane's tanks as we turned to the northwest toward Lippstadt.

At 1430 the Battalion Commander was with the leading battle group and reported a Second Armored Division liaison plane flying beyond Lippstadt to the northwest. At 1502 Lt Stone disregarded the small arms fire of Jerry infantry trapped between the two forces and flew his liaison plane beyond our leading elements to make radio contact with an artillery battalion of the Second Armored Division on their Division Artillery FM net. His observer was Lt. Ohlert (then Staff Sergeant). This was the first contact between the First and Ninth Armies. They assumed control of the artillery fire of both forces and assisted in coordinating the linkup. At 1530 Lt. Col. Kane with reconnaissance elements of Task Force Y and the Second Armored Division made contact. The Second Armored's 67th Armored Regiment sent a platoon of tanks commanded by Lt. Snodgrass completely around the south side of Lippstadt. Lts. Stone and Ohlert landed their plane be-

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hind the Second Armored lines at about the same time. The town of Lippstadt was occupied shortly thereafter by both forces against scattered enemy resistance which was mopped up. The battalion went into position within the city at 425 414. Our guns were directed to the south. Liaison with the Second Armored Division Artillery was established.

On the same day part of our ammunition section with other elements of Combat Command A's trains was ambushed south of Brilon. This town was far to the south along our thin lines of communication. Enemy infantry supported by two tanks were encountered. Seven half tracks, one truck and eight trailers from the 67th were destroyed. Our losses were one man killed and two wounded.

The battalion remained in position in Lippstadt during the day. Several missions were fired in support of a combat patrol that was sent toward Erwitte to take some prisoners who were reported to be willing to surrender. The patrol was driven back by heavy fire without accomplishing its mission. During the night of 2-3 April road blocks reported vehicular activity in the Westernkotten-Bielefeld-Erwitte area. The 83rd Division Artillery reinforced our fires by firing heavy TOTs on these towns and also harassed the road net. The Artillery fire forestalled any enemy counterattack. The 83rd Division relieved the Second Armored Division along the Lippe River during the night.

The battalion remained in position in Lippstadt until 1345, April 4th. Our defensive sector was pinched out by elements of the 8th Armored Division pushing through our lines to the south against the newly formed "Rose" pocket. At this time we moved to Wewer (712 473) in support of Task Force Y which occupied a defensive sector in Paderborn which had been captured by the Division on 1 April. Several of our observers with Task Force X participated in this attack firing the 54th Armd Field Artillery Bn. Captain Morgan and Lt. McClure did exceptionally fine work in this fight. Lt. McClure's tank was hit by bazooka fire and his radio put out of action. He then went into action as an additional line tank to bolster up the only three tanks remaining with Company F, 32nd Armored Regiment.

At 1030, April 5 orders were received for an attack to the east. The Division was to secure a line of objectives running south from Bad Driburg (89 50). The 67th Armd Field Artillery Groupment was reconstituted with the 54th and 188th as the additional battalions. The 67th was placed in direct support of Task Force Y and the 54th in direct support of Task Force X. The 188th was placed in general support. Our observers with Task Force Y were Captain Van Fleet, Lts. Batman and Wright. In addition there were two FOs and one Liaison Officer from the 188th Field Artillery (104th Division). Captain Morgan, Lts. McClure and Sarver were our observers with Task Force X operating with the 54th Armd Field Artillery Bn. Movement began at 1130 and the Division advanced to the east against light opposition. Initial objectives were secured. The Division was then ordered to continue the attack to the east to secure crossings of the Weser River. This was to be an all night move. At 1920 Task Force Y and the 67th moved out. Initially no resistance was encountered.

Our route was Schwaney, Biehlenstein, Schnechten, Siddessen, Rheder, Erkeln. A few SS men and tanks were encountered. One Mark V tank was surprised and destroyed with a hand grenade at Siddessen.

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Part of the road was very bad and the rear of our column was forced to move cross country for a distance of about two miles with great difficulty. Daylight April 6th found the head of our column on the hill above Tietelsen at coordinates 054 423. We were immediately engaged by several Tiger tanks and Jagd Tigers (128mm gun). One Jagd Tiger was destroyed by Lt. Wright when one of our shells penetrated the rear deck of the tank and exploded inside. Many missions were fired on these tanks and their accompanying SS infantry. At 1130 our entire forward area was heavily shelled. One 67th man was killed and eight wounded. One M-7 and trailer of Battery B was destroyed. Captain Sathe engaged and neutralized one of these enemy tanks with direct fire by standing on a gun in his battery position area. Our attack on Tietelsen was successful and Col. Kane sent an encircling force around our right flank which captured the town of Rothe. The task force suffered many casualties but continued the attack until all the enemy tanks and infantry were driven to the east.

During the afternoon the battalion displaced to Rothe (065 402). Word was received that Lt. Sarver who had been with Task Force X had been killed during the night attack by that column. He and Private 1cl Cardeans distinguished themselves by conspicuous gallantry in this action. He was replaced the next day by Lt. Hart.

On the evening of April 6th the task force bypassed the remaining resistance by moving through Bergholz on route 3 and proceeded through Dalhausen toward Beverungen. A blown underpass delayed the advance until 0700, April 7. Beverungen was quickly taken as the enemy fought a well coordinated rear guard action. The bridge was blown as we approached. The force immediately was sent north to Blankenau but upon their arrival the railroad bridge nearby was also destroyed. Many missions were fired by Captain Van Fleet and the Battalion Commander's party from OPs in Beverungen during the day and heavy casualties inflicted on retreating enemy columns moving up the eastern slopes of the river bank in plain view of our forces. During the afternoon the battalion displaced to Dalhausen with one battery at Reggenthal.

The advance of the Division from Paderborn to the Weser was masterfully executed by all elements. About 50 kilometers of enemy territory and numerous villages and cities were overrun in a space of forty-six hours against a well organized rear guard of heavy German tanks and SS infantry.

The battalion remained in positions near Dalhausen (079 378) on 8 April. Several observed missions were fired during the day on enemy infantry and guns on the east side of the Weser River. On the evening of the 8th information was received that Combat Command A was to be placed in reserve on the following morning. However, the 67th was to be placed in direct support of Task Force Lovelady of Combat Command B in the 391st Armd Field Artillery Groupment commanded by Lt. Col. Garton. One of our observer teams was to remain with each of Combat Command A's task forces to provide for their emergency employment. Our observers with Task Force Lovelady were designated as Lt. Banowetz, Lt. Hayes, Lt. Mitcheltree and Lt. Crook. One team of three observers from the 391st was already with the force and came under our control.

At 0830, April 9 the battalion detoured to the south to join Combat Command B in the 104th Division bridgehead across the Weser. This was accomplished and the attack started from march column. Initially no resistance was encountered but as we approached Lenglern (480 338) enemy infantry in strength was met. They

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fought a fanatical rear guard action for a distance of 3,000 meters west of the Leine River and east of the river through the town of Bovenden. All bridges in the vicinity were blown during the evening as they retreated. Many missions were fired by the 67th in clearing this area. A bridge across the river was built during the night. Approaches on both sides were very bad.

The battalion moved out at 0730, April 10 in a heavy fog and joined the task force in assembly areas beyond Bovenden. Our patrols did not establish contact and we began a rapid march to the east. Many prisoners were taken along the way but there was no organized resistance. The route was Bovenden, Weende, Roringen, Waake, Ebergotzen, Landolfhausen, Seulingen, Westerode to Duderstadt. Captains Greenhalgh and Braunig captured thirty German prisoners at Waake where they were hiding. They were assisted by enlisted men of the Battalion Commander's party and the Reconnaissance Section. Private Muldofsky's work as interpreter was responsible for locating these Germans. At Westerode and Duderstadt we made contact with elements of the Second Infantry Division who were operating on the left of the V Corps. Many allied prisoners had been liberated by them.

The march continued on through Brehme, Helungen, Bischefferode, Gr. Bodungen and Kleinbodungen. Between these last two towns a number of SS troops were captured or killed. Sniper fire continued to come from the woods north of the route until our column cleared although it was kept neutralized by our anti-aircraft weapons. We later learned that we had bypassed 1,500 Germans in this vicinity. Our route continued through Oberdorf and Pustleben to Wollersleben where the 7th Armored Division of V Corps was contacted. From this point we moved north into Gr. Werther which had been designated as one of our final objectives. Task Force Welborn was on our left and stopped just short of Nordhausen. The 67th occupied a position near Gr. Werther at 092221.

At 0430 on April 11 Combat Command B jumped off with task forces abreast to secure Nordhausen. Some opposition was encountered and considerable harassing fire was delivered to cover the advance. By early afternoon the city had been secured. Combat Command R did not participate as previously planned due to heavier than expected enemy resistance on the left flank of the Division. Elements of Combat Command A were also committed to assist Combat Command R. As soon as other units of the corps could take over these positions the Division was ordered to bypass to the south and move forward rapidly to again contact the 9th Army on our left. This later formed the Harz Mountain pocket. Approximately 67,000 Germans were encircled in this area.

The battalion displaced to positions at 122 253 in the vicinity of Nordhausen on April 11. The capture of Nordhausen released many persons from slave labor and freed the few remaining living occupants of a notorious concentration camp. Our CP was placed in the lavish officer's mess of the Nordhausen Luftwaffe field.

On April 12 our task force again moved out at 0730. Our new objective was Allstedt. The route led through Heringen, Kelbra, Tilleda, Edersleben, Oberroblingen into the objective. Several missions were fired during the day against light enemy resistance. Four Goliaths were employed against us but were overrun and destroyed without damage to our troops. Our advance was so rapid that all bridges were captured intact. The battalion moved into position in rear of the town by late afternoon at 543 183.

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The attack of Combat Command B continued on the 13th of April when we jumped off at 0700 with Task Force Lovelady. Our route was now to the northeast through Mittelhausen and Rothenschirnbach and north to Helfta where the initial resistance was encountered. This town was rapidly cleared but heavy anti-tank fire was received as we attempted to move north into Unterrissdorf.

Two tanks were lost by the leading company. A combined infantry, tank and artillery action was necessary to capture this town. Four dual purpose 88s were destroyed and many prisoners taken. Two of these guns were put out of action by our artillery. The advance continued through Hedersleben and Beesenstedt to Zornitz where one full company of prisoners were taken without a fight. Our force then took Zaschwitz on the west bank of the Saale River. The bridge at Wettin was blown and heavy enemy resistance at the bridge site was encountered. Several missions were fired on enemy activity on the east bank of the river. Dive bombers were called in and enemy locations marked for strafing by firing red smoke.

The task force was ordered withdrawn to the vicinity of Beesenstedt at 2000 when it was decided not to cross the river at this point. This was done so hurriedly that it left the leading artillery batteries in front of the task force. A crossing farther north on Route 3 at Friedsburg was directed for the following morning. A pontoon bridge was put in at this point during the night after a bridgehead had been secured by Task Force Welborn.

The battalion crossed the Saale River with Task Force Lovelady at about 0900 on April 14. Stiff resistance was encountered at Neuendorf soon after we had regained the southern route on the right flank of the Division. The battalion occupied positions southwest of Nautz and fired many missions during the attack. By noon the resistance was mopped up and the column proceeded. Some resistance was encountered in the vicinity of Werderthau and Ostrau but only one battery of artillery was used in this action. Heavy resistance began to be met along the road from Werben through Stamsdorf and in the outskirts of Zorbig. The town of Zorbig was never completely cleared but the task force fought its way through in some confusion and coiled along the road to the north on orders of higher headquarters. This occurred at about 2100. Two of our batteries were in the western edge of Zorbig. The remainder of the battalion and the battalion air section were in the vicinity of Stamsdorf. Three light tanks from the task force were obtained to assist our meager road blocks. A number of prisoners were taken by the artillery batteries while in these unprotected positions.

Movement was resumed at 0600, April 15th. Resistance was first encountered southwest of Raguhn (921 547). A strong force of enemy infantry supported by artillery and self-propelled guns was in this locality to protect the three bridges over the branches of the Mulde River. Two batteries of the battalion went into position east of Salsfurth using the bank of the autobahn for defilade. The attack proceeded very slowly as enemy troops fought with panzerfausts and small arms all along the road into Raguhn. Time fire was adjusted on the three bridges across the Mulde by our ground and air OPs. Despite our heavy interdiction fire the Germans succeeded in blowing the first of these bridges. One enemy self-propelled gun was destroyed by a task force tank after being neutralized by artillery fire adjusted by Lt. Banowetz. Raguhn was secured by about 1800 and Thurland at about 2000. At about 1540 warning orders were received from Division Artillery that Combat Command A was about to be committed and that we would take over general support for them. The support of Task Force Lovelady was to be taken over by the 83rd Arm Field Artillery Battalion. They relieved us of responsibility at 2000 hours.

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Task Force Lovelady had been ordered to consolidate Raguhn and Thurland which was taken by his reserve companies with our support prior to our relief. In this action Private 1cl Cardeans with Lt. Crook's observer section was fatally wounded.

Our battalion went into position at Hinsdorf (05 56) in support of both task forces of Combat Command A. Our observers from Task Force Lovelady were relieved. Our observers with Task Force X were Captain Morgan, Lt. McClure and Lt. Wood. These with Task Force Y were Captain Van Fleet, Lt. Mitcheltree, Lt. Brockman, Lt. Likins, Lt. Beilke and Lt. Wright.

Task Force Y attacked from Quellendorf (030 595) at 0800, April 16th to secure the towns of Mosigkau (045 655) and Kochstedt (056 643). Task Force X was not committed initially. Heavy resistance was encountered in both towns which were not secured until midafternoon. In Mosigkau Lts. Wright and Beilke and Tec 5 Swearingen were wounded. Lt. Wright's tank was hit by enemy fire and burned soon after it had been taken over by Sergeant Stromberg. Sergeant Stromberg then formed a new RO Section from the two crews and continued close artillery support. Tec 5 Engelhart and Private 1cl Gaffney assisted in this mission which was commendably executed.

The infantry with Task Force Y was 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry attached to the Third Armored Division from the First Infantry Division. This highly trained unit commanded by Lt. Col. Learned was most aggressive. The work of Captain Van Fleet and Lt. Likins in furnishing close support to the infantry during the capture of Kochstedt by the task force was superior. Many officer casualties were sustained by all arms during the day's fight. Three were artillerymen as one 1st Division Artillery liaison officer with the force was also wounded and evacuated.

Another action in our rear on April 16 involved our B Trains who were in position in a field south of Fernsdorf (985 552). At 0615 they were alerted by one of their sentries who discovered a column of German bicycle infantry approaching. Captain Lee drove out to identify them. They opened fire when he was 300 yards away and wounded one man in his vehicle which was put out of action. Our attached AA and our 57mm gun went into action against the German column which took cover in a ditch. Tanks were requested from the 32nd Armored Regiment. An hour later three medium and three light tanks appeared to reinforce our men in the fight. The enemy resistance was broken when the tanks and our artillerymen acting as infantry assaulted their position. Nine Germans were killed and thirty captured. The 67th and attached AA suffered two killed and six wounded in this engagement. Private Strommen of Service Battery who was killed was with the leading tanks in the final assault. He manned the light machine gun on Captain Lee's knocked out jeep until it was out of ammunition and then advanced with a pistol.

At 1530 two companies of Task Force X's 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment with Company A, 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion attached was ordered to sweep the Forst Haldeburg from southwest to northeast and link up with Task Force Welborn in the vicinity of Torten (118 646). Our observers with this force were Captain Morgan and Lts. Bateman and Hart. The woods were swept as far as the road from 076 652 to 100 648. Unfortunately one company lost direction during the night and became engaged in a sharp fire fight with elements of Combat Command B. During the day the battalion less Battery A and Trains displaced to Quellendorf (030 594).

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The battalion remained in position in the vicinity of Quelledorf on April 17th and 18th. The 991st Field Artillery joined the 67th Groupment on the 17th. Our observer sections were readjusted and casualties replaced. Lts. Brockman, Hayes and Crook went out as observers.

The disposition of Combat Command A was task forces abreast with Task Force X on the right next to Combat Command B. Our mission was defensive until the flanks and rear of the Division could be secured. We commenced preparing plans for fire support for the capture of Dessau. All of the Division Reserve had been committed on the extreme right of the Division to halt counterattacks and clear the west bank of the Mulde River. Some VII Corps artillery was brought up.

On April 19th Task Force Y cleared sixteen towns on our left flank and rear. There was no fighting in the execution of this mission. Task Force X attacked at 1800 in conjunction with Task Force Welborn of Combat Command B to clear a pocket of resistance 1,500 yards deep between the two forces. It was mainly in the 1064 grid square. Initially light resistance was encountered but it became progressively greater as the enemy position was pinched out. Many missions were fired. Lt. Hart was killed by high velocity anti-tank fire during the attack. His assistant, Staff Sergeant Dixon, took over his duties as observer.

The attack of Task Force X continued during the early hours of April 20th. Much information was gained from prisoners about the defenses of Dessau which assisted the artillery fire plan. This plan became part of Combat Command A's field order which was issued on the 20th. Neutralizing fires from all caliber artillery with the corps was begun in the late afternoon and evening. This fire was intended for destruction on known targets and was in no sense a preparation. Much counterbattery was executed by the Division and Corps artillery.

Task Force Y jumped off at 0230, April 21st in order to get infantry and armor into Alten before daylight. One task force of Combat Command R was committed on our left and Task Force Welborn of Combat Command B was assigned a very narrow sector on the right of Task Force X southeast of Dessau along the Mulde River. All other attacking units jumped off at 0630. No artillery was fired in the attack prior to daylight. The assault on Alten was successful. The attack of Task Force X went more slowly. During the night Battle Group Miller of Task Force X had been brought up from the Division's right flank. It was sent across country in the middle of our sector to support Battle Group Owens which was making the main effort on our right. Lt. McClure and one of our tanks was with Miller. The attack went slowly but gradually gained headway as the outer defenses of the city were penetrated. Our airplanes did especially fine work in repeatedly locating and silencing enemy batteries and self-propelled guns. Much fire was received from our right flank and right rear from artillery across the Mulde River. By midnight April 21st about half of Dessau had been taken.

The attack was continued at 0600, April 22nd. Task Force Y was pinched out by Combat Command R and Task Force X but was recommitting in northeastern Dessau to clear the peninsula between the Mulde and Elbe Rivers at their junction. Battery C displaced to the vicinity of Alten (078 689) during the morning. Much fire was delivered on the town of Mildensee to neutralize enemy artillery. Elements of the 9th Infantry Division began the relief of Task Force Richardson of Combat Command R on the extreme right of the Division.

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On April 23rd Task Force Y continued mopping up the northern part of Dessau. Colonel Learned's First Division Infantry continued to do fine work in this sector. Resistance was still stiff and enemy artillery fire increased throughout the morning. It was very inaccurate and caused few casualties. Again our air OPs did good counterbattery work particularly in locating long range guns which were neutralized during the night by our corps artillery. One battery of the 183rd Field Artillery was attached to the 67th Groupment on the 23rd until its battalion arrived late in the evening. They were registered in Rosslau by us.

The battalion remained in position in Kochstedt and Alten firing missions across the Elbe and Mulde Rivers. All objectives of the Division had been gained. At 1545 Combat Command A was attached to the 9th Division. Liaison with the 9th Division Artillery was established by us. The 183rd Field Artillery was detached from the Division and attached to the 9th Division Artillery. At 1920 a no fire line with the Russians was received. This was designated as the Elbe and Mulde Rivers which was our front line. However, definitely identified Germans were to be fired on. Battery A was displaced to Alten early on the 24th to improve our defensive dispositions. This suburb of Dessau contained the Junkers aircraft factory and a huge airfield on which about 200 enemy planes were overrun. Most of these had been destroyed.

Our defensive mission was continued on April 25th. Our OP remained in Kochstedt in a Luftwaffe anti-aircraft school. Enormous stores of war materiele and equipment had been captured here by Task Force Y. During the defensive phase of the operation in Dessau our observers and those of the 991st operated from the highest churches and towers in the city. Many missions were fired from these OPs. Our fixed observation had been displaced forward from initial positions in Kochstedt and Mosigkau as the attack progressed. Lt. Hayes and Private 1st Class Ness took six prisoners by crossing the blown bridge over the Mulde River at 113 688 about 1700 hours. Then Lt. Hayes accompanied a large patrol from the 9th Division in an effort to contact the Russians. The patrol took a number of prisoners but was unsuccessful. The relief of Combat Command A by the 9th Division was completed at 1815 hours and we were relieved of responsibility for defensive fires at the same time.

On the 26th V Corps units of our army reported contact with the Russians.

Orders had been received on April 25th that upon relief we would take over an occupation mission in the vicinity of Halle.

Movement with other units of Combat Command A was begun at 0810, April 26th. The towns of Walbeck (583 473), Ritterode (567 444) and Meisberg (581 442) were occupied by the battalion.

On April 28th the battalion was directed to prepare to move to a new area in the vicinity of Querfurt (6916). Our relief and movement to this new locality was completed at 1800 April 29th. Patrols on April 30 discovered no armed resistance in the area. Our entire battalion was billeted in Querfurt. Maintenance and rehabilitation was begun.

Number of rounds expended during the month: 14,004

Edward S. Berry

EDWARD S. BERRY
Lieut. Colonel, 67th Armd Field Arty Bn.,
Commanding.

