

HEADQUARTERS
83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

1 May 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

The following report is submitted for period 1 April 1945 to 1 May 1945.

Original Unit: - No change.

Change in Organization: - None

Strength: - At Beginning of Period:	Officers	- 53
	W. O. J. G.	- 1
	E. M.	- 933
At End of Period :	Officers	- 47
	W. O. J. G.	- 0
	E. M.	- 889

Stations: - None

Marches: - (See narrative)

Campaigns: - None announced

Battles: - (See narrative)

Commanding Officers in important engagements: Lt. Col PRENTICE E. YEOMANS, 016454 until 18 April 1945. Major RICHARD L. BRADLEY, 0366477 for remainder of period covered by this report.

Losses in Action: - (See attached compilation)

Former and Present members who have distinguished themselves in action: - (See attached compilation)

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NARRATIVE

FIRST to FOURTH

Battalion remained in the NORDBROCHE (684418) area until the close of the period at which time it moved to the vicinity of 655335, and contacted friendly elements throughout the sector. During the period of 1st - 4th the unit held in the vicinity of NORDBROCHE, and pushed patrols to the East.

FIFTH

Unit remained assembled in vicinity of 655335, and improved their positions. At 1930 Col. Yeomans was instructed to move out as soon as possible following CCB on Northern routes within the Division Zone. Moved out at 1945.

SIXTH

After a hard march throughout the night of 5th - 6th April the battalion coiled West of BORGENTREICH until they were ordered to move to the vicinity of BUHNE on the tail of CCB's forces (Task Force Lovelady). "D" Company moved into BUHNE, and pushed a strong reconnaissance patrol to TRENDLEBURG. The battalion minus "D" Company remained assembled in the BORGENTREICH (043313) area. "D" Company's patrol ran into resistance East of TRENDLEBURG, and were ordered back.

SEVENTH

Battalion remained in BORGENTREICH (043313). "A" Company was sent to DRENKE to clean out woods in that area. At 2300 G-3 called, and notified Colonel Yeomans that "D" Company would be attached to "CCR", and would move out sometime in the morning. "D" Company moved out at 1030 with "CCR"

EIGHTH

Battalion less "D" Company moved at 1020, and closed in LODINGSEN area at approximately 1500. Remained there for the night blocking to the South.

NINTH and TENTH

Uneventful days. "A" Company joined division for the night of the ninth to furnish security for the Division C.P. Followed "CCB" task force

ELEVENTH

Pushed to Northeast of NORDHAUSEN against practically no opposition. Discovered, and explored an underground AA rocket plant. "D" Company which had been attached to "CCR" reverted to battalion control.

Captain McPike was transferred to "A" where he assumed command of the company. "A" Company minus their attached tank platoon from "C" Company was attached to "CCR".

TWELVETH

Battalion moved from the area Northwest of NORDHAUSEN, and followed "CCB" to area southeast of SANGERHAUSEN where they halted for the night, and patrolled to the East. "A" Company which had been attached to "CCR" reverted to battalion control in the evening, and returned to our assembly area.

Lt Hughes had all of the vehicles in his platoon destroyed except one (1) armored car, and one (1) jeep while he was conducting a patrol to HALLE.

8329

THIRTEENTH

Battalion moved behind "CCB" to vicinity of HEDERSTEBEN where they coiled for the night, and blocked to the South.

FOURTEENTH

No unusual activity for the day followed on tail of "CCB" blocking to the South. Coiled for the night in the vicinity of OSTRU.

FIFTEENTH

Battalion moved to RODIGKAU - ZORBIG area, and sent patrols to the East and Southeast to vicinity of WOLFEN - GREPPIN - THALHEIM. Enemy contact was made, and the patrols were withdrawn upon division order.

SIXTEENTH

Remained in RODIGKAU-ZORBIG area patrolling to in all directions around the area.

"A" Company attached to "CCR" for the mission of sweeping the woods North and East of HAGERSDORF.

SEVENTEENTH

Battalion less "A" Company attacked to retake THURLAND where Task Force Lovelady's force was infiltrated the night of 16th-17th April. The fight in THURLAND was characterized by harrassing, and accurate sniper fire, and quite a bit of fire from a captured M-4 tank as well as armor cars which had been captured by the enemy when they took the town.

Late in the afternoon of the 17th "A" Company reverted to battalion control, and THURLAND was cleared of all enemy resistance that night. 112 American prisoners who had been captured the previous night were liberated.

EIGHTEENTH

At 1107 Task Force Yeomans (83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion complete) plus Battle Group Miller (1 medium tank company, 1 infantry company, 1 platoon of TD's, and 2 S.P. 155 guns) launched a coordinated attack to eliminate all enemy resistance in the WOLFEN-GREPPIN area.

At 1530 the attack had progressed as far as THALHEIM where Lt Col PRENTICE E. YEOMANS, Battalion Commander, 83rd Armd Rcn Bn., was killed by shell fire. Major Richard L. Bradley was placed in command of the battalion. The attack continued until darkness when the task force coiled, and secured RENDEN and THALHEIM. Late in the afternoon the force at RENDEN beat off a vicious counter-attack by self-propelled guns, and infantry.

NINETEENTH

Battalion was attached to "CCR", and continued the attack at 0400 on WOLFEN-GREPPIN against scattered enemy resistance. At darkness the units were all well into WOLFEN where they held for the night.

TWENTIETH

WOLFEN-GREPPIN area was cleared by 1800, and the battalion reverted back to division control. At approximately 2000 Major Bradley was informed that we were to attach 1 company to T. F. Richardson for his attack on JESSNITZ. "D" Company was attached to T. F. Richardson for that mission.

TWENTY-FIRST

"A", and "B" Companies cleared the area east of WOLFEN-GREPPIN to the MULDE RIVER. "D" Company assisted T. F. Richardson in taking JESSNITZ, and returned to battalion at 211500. They suffered several casualties due to heavy, and accurate shell fire when they first launched their attack.

TWENTY-SECOND

Battalion was relieved by elements of the 60th Inf. Regt, 9th U. S. Inf Div, and all plans were completed for the move to the HARZ Mountain area in the vicinity of STOLBERG.

TWENTY-THIRD to THIRTIETH

Battalion moved to STOLBERG area, and closed in that area at 1630. Battalion C.P. and Trains located at 232354; "A" Company - 177321; "B" Company - 298308; "D" Company - 225408; "C" Company - 277342.

Battalion remained in the HARZ MOUNTAIN area in the vicinity of STOLBERG conducting maintenance and rehabilitation. All companies maintained active patrol activity within their areas. The defense of the area was under the supervision of "CCB".

REMARKS:

The month's activities for the battalion consisted largely in screening the flank of the division or reducing pockets of resistance. There were no particular outstanding feats of arms performed.

The unit suffered a great blow in the death of Colonel Yeomans who had been in command since the Siegfried Line days in September 1944. He was the first battalion commander to be killed, and he had commanded the battalion in its roughest operations of the war. With his death a good soldier died.

Robertson

ROBERTSON
Capt. S-2