

DIVISION ARTILLERY COMMAND
Third Armored Division
APO 253

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report, April 1945.

TO : CG, 3d Armd Div, APO 253, U.S. Army.

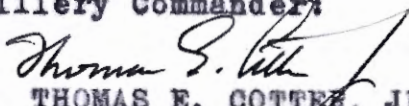
In compliance with AR 345-105, the following After Action Report is submitted for the month of April, 1945:

- a. Original unit: Artillery Command, 3d Armored Division.
- b. Changes in organization:
 - (1) 83d Armd FA Bn remained attached until 23 April.
 - (2) 183d FA Bn remained attached until 24 April.
 - (3) 188th FA Bn relieved from attachment 8 April 1945.
 - (4) 991st FA Bn attached 6 April and remained attached until end of period.
- c. Strength:

(1) 1 April 1945 :	<u>14</u> O's	<u>no</u> WOs	<u>83</u> EM
(2) 30 April 1945:	<u>14</u> O's	<u>no</u> WOs	<u>82</u> EM
- d. Stations:

1 -	2 April	vic Etteln, Germany
2 -	5 April	vic Norborchen, Germany
5 -	6 April	vic Dorenhagen, Germany
6 -	9 April	vic Brakel, Germany
9 -	10 April	vic Adelebsen, Germany
10 -	12 April	vic Werningerode, Germany
12 -	13 April	vic Sangerhausen, Germany
13 -	14 April	vic Zabitz, Germany
14 -	25 April	vic Lingenau, Germany
25 -	30 April	vic Sangerhausen, Germany
- e. Marches: see narrative attached.
- f. Campaigns:
 - (1) Campaign in Germany.
 - (2) Duration: ~~12 Sep~~ 12 Sep 1944 to present.
 - (3) Purpose: destruction of enemy army.
 - (4) Authority (direct): CG, 3d Armd Div.
- g. Battles: see narrative.
- h. Commanding Officer thruout period: Colonel Frederic J. Brown, O16761, FA.
- i. Losses in action: no battle casualties during month.
- j. Former and present members who distinguished themselves by valorous acts in combat during the month of April: none.
- k. Photos: none.

For the Division Artillery Commander:


THOMAS E. COTTER, JR
Captain, Field Artillery
Actg. Adjutant

2 Incls:

- No. 1 - Narrative
- No. 2 - Journal

Narrative to accompany After Action Report of Division Artillery Command, 3d Armd Div, for April 1945.

At beginning of April the 3d Armd Div Arty with two bns of 155 howitzers attached was supporting the effort of the division to secure Paderborn. At this time, maintenance gave the Artillery Commander considerable concern because of the failure of radial engines (because of lack of proper oil). However, at the close of the period, all M-7's, except one, had been satisfactorily placed in service with a net 'draw' of one complete new unit. During 1-3 April, FOs and artillery aircraft worked a maintenance of contact with elements of the 9th Army which had driven East from the Rhine. 5 April plans were completed for movement to the East in four columns. Resistance was met in attempting to secure crossings of the Weser River -- in the form of an infantry regiment plus an artillery regiment, making an infantry action necessary in holding the bridgehead. 991st FA Bn rejoined 6 April. Decision was made to bypass the resistance to the South on the 9th after a clean-up job was done on the west bank of the river. Movement into Nordhausen was accomplished against spotty resistance -- and with low consumption of ammunition. Resistance was encountered on the north flank Northwest of Nordhausen in the approaches to the Harz Mountains on 11 April. Increasing numbers of prisoners and "striped-suiters" were encountered by all columns in the eastward movement into Sangerhausen against light resistance. At the Mulde further resistance was met, necessitating expenditures of ammunition -- particularly on the flanks. CC 'B' established a two company infantry bridgehead, but withdrew it after two days because the possibilities of exploitation seemed remote. 991st FA Bn was employed in part to assist in the reduction of small defended towns, because it was found at Aachen that the Germans' morale fell to some extent when a 100-lb. projectile exploded in the third house beyond the one fired at. Reduction of defended towns occupied the division for the ensuing week until 24 April when the Ninth Division took over the sector -- echeloning combat teams into our Combat Command areas. 23 April, 83d Armd FA Bn was relieved from attachment and went to a maintenance area. Elements of division commenced movement to the Sangerhausen area for maintenance, 24 April. Balance of time period spent in maintenance of equipment, rehabilitation of personnel under policies of the new Division Commander.

Incl No. 1 () to After Action Report, Div Arty Comd, 3d AD, Apr 1945