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HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
THIRD ARMORED DIVISION
APO 253, U.S. Army

V60
5 May 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. UNIT: Combat Command "A", 3rd Armored Division.
2. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

a. Composition 1 April 1945 -

Hq & Hq Det, Combat Command "A"
32nd Armored Regt. (- 3rd Bn)
1st Bn, 36th Armored Inf. Regt.
1st Bn, 414th Inf. Regt.
Co. "A", 703rd T.D. Bn.
Co. "A", 23rd Armored Eng. Bn.
Co. "A", 45th Armored Med. Bn.
Co. "A", 3rd Armored Maint. Bn.
67th Armored F.A. Bn.
54th Armored F.A. Bn.

b. Changes -

8 April - Detached: 54th Armored F.A. Bn.
9 April - Attached: 83rd Armored F.A. Bn.
11 April - Detached: 1st Bn, 414th Inf. Regt.
11 April - Attached: 1st Bn, 18th Inf. Regt.
11 April - Detached: 83rd Armored F.A. Bn.
16 April - Attached: 67th Armored F.A. Bn.
16 April - 991st F.A. Bn.
26 April - All troops relieved of attachment.

c. Organization for combat -

TFX: Cnd Gp, 32nd Armored Regt.
2nd Bn, 32nd Armored Regt.
1st Bn, 36th Armored Inf. Regt.
3rd Plat, Co. "A", 23rd Armored Eng. Bn.
3rd Plat, Co. "A", 703rd T.D. Bn.
67th Armored F.A. Bn.

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

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TFY: 1st Bn, 32nd Armored Regt.
§ 1st Bn, 414th Inf. Regt.
1st Plat, Co. "A", 23rd Armored Eng. Bn.
1st Plat, Co. "A", 703rd T.D. Bn.
54th Armored P.A. Bn.

§1st Bn, 18th Inf. replaced 1st Bn, 414th Inf.

3. STRENGTH:

Hq & Hq Det, G Comd "A" (assigned & attached) -

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1 April | : Off | | 12 |
| | | EM | 103 |
| Losses | : Off | | 0 |
| | | EM | 0 |
| Replacements | : Off | | 0 |
| | | EM | 0 |
| 30 April | : Off | | 12 |
| | | EM | 103 |

4. STATIONS: Does not apply.

5. MARCHES: Does not apply.

6. NARRATIVE BATTLE REPORT:

On 1 April, TFY attacked via GEBEKE and BOKENFORDE to LIPPSTADT to link up with the 2nd Armored Division and seal the RUHR pocket. Enemy opposition to this move was quickly overcome, and two 88mm guns and 350 PWs captured. At the same time, TFX attacked the western half of PADERBORN. Tank and infantry opposition wilted during the afternoon, and the sector secured before darkness. Several military warehouses were seized containing 94 guns of 75mm, 45 howitzers of 150mm, and two 88mm flak guns in addition to large stocks of Q.M., signal and chemical warfare equipment. Also several ammunition dumps containing small arms and small calibre H.E. were captured.

The next three days were spent in maintaining blocks around PADERBORN and LIPPSTADT. Light enemy action only was encountered. On 5 April, G Comd "A", with TFX on the left and TFY on the right, attacked east following the routes shown. Only light opposition was encountered as the columns advanced rapidly until the towns of OTTBERGEN and TIETELSEN were reached. Here enemy infantry with small arms and bazookas, supported by four or five heavy tanks, stubbornly defended the approaches to the WESER RIVER. On 6 April, heavy fighting was necessary to clear AMELUNKEN of the enemy, and TIETELSEN and towns in the vicinity were cleared the same day. One of the principal obstacles was the very complete demolition of the overpass at OTTBERGEN which prevented vehicular movement. This forbade tank support for the infantry elements in pushing beyond the town and clearing AMELUNKEN.

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On 7 April, the area between the two routes and down to the WESER RIVER was cleared. Opposition was limited to small arms and bazooka fire. On 8 April, the two artillery battalions were relieved from attachment, one going to GCR and the other to GCB, while GCA went into reserve for the next attack.

On 9 April, the command, following the two north routes of the division, crossed the WESER RIVER and marched to the vicinity of GIEBOLDEHAUSEN (7137) and BILSHAUSEN (6739), where orders were received to take OSTERODE and HERZBERG. SS infantry, eight or ten heavy tanks or SP guns, and a battalion of medium artillery located near LONAU (8146), resisted both outside and in the two main towns and put up an extremely stubborn fight. These troops were remnants of those driven from the PADERBORN area and had the mission of defending the approaches to the HARZ MOUNTAINS to permit the concentration of troops in the HARZ area.

The attack for the towns started on 10 April and by late that night the towns were cleared, but the enemy was still blocking the roads leading into the wooded area of the HARZ from both OSTERODE and HERZBERG, and artillery and tank fire falling into both towns.

After completion of the relief of our troops, the command moved on the 12th to catch up with the rest of the division at SANGERHAUSEN. On the 13th, the command, still in reserve, moved to the area GERBSTEDT - SANDERSLEBEN - BELLEBEN, cleaning out numerous previously unoccupied towns. On 14 April, the SALLE RIVER was crossed, and operations similar to those of the 13th carried on in the area GERLEBOCK - FRENZ - GROBZIG. The next day the command moved to the area QUELLENDORF - RODEGAST - MAASDORF and again swept the area. At daylight on the 16th, the trains of the command were attacked by approximately 80 infantry with small arms and bazookas. This was quickly beaten off and all the attackers killed or captured.

Also on the 16th, TFX was committed to seize LIBBESDORF, which was cleared against enemy infantry and light artillery fire by 1145. The attack was then continued against similar opposition and KOCHSTEDT and NOSIGKAU seized and secured by 2200 hours. On 17 April, one battle group composed of a medium tank company and an infantry company, with the tank battalion supporting weapons, was detached from TFX and attached to GCR. The same day was spent by the balance of the command in sweeping the western section of the FORST HALDEBURG and towns in the vicinity, and in cleaning out enemy infantry attempting to infiltrate into the area. Many small fire fights were had with enemy groups attempting to get into rear areas. The 18th was spent in patrolling both in the rear and to the northwest of the command's area. On the 19th and 20th, further patrolling of towns was carried on by strong combat patrols. On the 20th, the detached battle group returned to TFX.

The assault on DESSAU began on 21 April. ALTEN was cleared early against light resistance, but elements of divisions SCHARNHORST and VON HUTTEN, with approximately two battalions of artillery supporting, defended DESSAU stubbornly. Men of these two divisions put up

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fanatical resistance to attempt to prevent the loss of DESSAU. After three days fighting the last elements were mopped up or driven north of the ELBE RIVER. On the 24th, the zone was held and C Comd "A" was attached to the 9th Inf. Div. On the 25th, C Comd "A" reverted to the 3rd Armored Div.

On 26 April, the command moved to the vicinity of HETTSTEDT for rest and occupational duties. All troops were detached from tactical control.

7. COMMANDERS: Col. LEANDER L. DOAN

8. ENEMY LOSSES:

7 Tanks
3 SP Guns
50 Artillery Pieces
94 Towed 75mm Guns
11 Heavy Flak Guns
22 Light Flak Guns
Numerous warehouses and factories.
Approximately 5600 PWs

9. INCLOSURES: Journals and other supporting documents.
Map of routes followed by C Comd A, 3d Arm Div.

For the Commanding Officer:

S. L. Adams
S. L. ADAMS
Major, Cav.
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