SANDITATION

HEADQUARTERS MAINTENANCE BATTALION THIRD ARMORED DIVIS RECORDS DIV. ...

052

APO 253, 1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels)

In accordance with AR 345-105, the following report for the month of Mpril, 1945, is submitted:

a. Original Unit: No change.

Changes in organization: No change.
 Strength: Commissioned - 1 April 1945 = 52

30 April 1945 = 49

Enlisted

Net decrease - 1 April 1945 = 847

30 April 1945 = 843 Net decrease

EGRADE Stations: ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG PER

Departed Marburg, Germany 1 April 1945 Arrived Korbach, Germany 1 April 1945 Departed Korbach, Germany 4 April 1945 Arrived Paderborn, Germany 4 April 1945 Departed Paderborn, Germany 7 April 1945 Arrived Bad Driburg, Germany 7 April 1945 Departed Bad Driburg, Germany 11 April 1945 Arrived Duderstadt, Germany 11 April 1945 Departed Duderstadt, Germany 14 April 1945 Arrived Sangerhausen, Germany 14 April 1945

See Appendix No. 1. . Marches:

T. Campaigns: Not applicable to Maintenance Battalion. go Battles: Not applicable to Maintenance Battalion. h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: Not

applicable.

1. Lesses in action: CAPT. ROBERT J. GRINDATTI, 0415118, Commanding Officer, Co. "C", missing in action in Germany 15 April 1945, recaptured 16 April 1945, seriously wounded. Pfc Rudolph J. Polesnak, 36169886, Co. "C" and Pvt. John A. Bazylewicz, 33074531, Co. "C" missing in action in Germany 15 April 1945.

1. Former and present members who have distinguished

themselves in action: None.

k. Photographs: None.

For the Commanding Officer:

MARION W. ACKERMAN, 1st Lieut., Ord., Adjutant.

1 Incl. Narrative Report (Annex No. 1)

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Company "C"; in the early part of the month was located at Gashol, about ten (10) miles south of Paderborn, following on the heels of CO"B". The company moved shortly thereafter to the Paderborn airport, staying four (4) days and catching up on maintenance work prior to the drive to the east. On 6 April the task forces jumped off from Paderborn. This company moved as closely behind as the tactical situation permitted and in one week were bivouacked in the town of Beyernaumberg, four (4) miles southeast of Sangerhausen. Due to the rapid movement of the combat command the company was seldom all together and platoons were "leap-frogged" as the situation required. Most of the work performed was from "Break-downs" rather than enemy action, a result of the age of the vehicles and the inexperience of new reinforcements, and at times the company accumulated a small task force of tanks which it had picked up on the run. On April 15 the company commander Captain Robert J. Grindatti. went on a reconnaissance trip to a new area near Tornau and did not return. He was found in Quellendorf, seriously wounded, after having been captured and then abandoned by the Germans. The two enlisted men who were with him on this trip are still missing in action (paragraph li, basic letter).lst Lieut. Clyde S. Reed, Jr., then took command and the company moved to Tornau on April 16. On 27 April the company moved back to Kelbra for a period of rest, rehabilitation, maintenance and training. At this time all personnel are billetted in houses, the first indoor billets for a long period of time.

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:
The Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Division Ordnance
Section were bivouacked at Marburg, Germany on the 1st of the month,
but on that date moved to Korbach. From there the company moved to
Paderborn, Bad Driburg, Duderstadt and finally Sangerhausen, seldom
staying more than two or three days in one place. Due to the stretching of communication lines the depots were left far in the rear,
making it difficult to supply parts, ammunition, replacements, etc.
However, the battalion is now fairly close together and have entered
into a period of extensive maintenance and rehabilitation. It is
hoped that the division has seen its last combat in this theatre, but,
in spite of numerous rumors of the imminent "unconditional surrender"
of Germany, the Maintenance Battalion is ready to continue in active
support of the task forces in any further missions they may be called
upon to accomplish.



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ANNEX NUMBER ONE (1) TO AFTER ACTION REPORT OF MAINTENANCE BATTALION, THIRD ARMORED DIVISION, FOR MONTH OF APRIL, 1945.

NARRATIVE REPORT

COMPANY "A": This company was bivouacked on a cold windy plain on Easter Sunday. 1 April 1945, with the CC"A" Trains, while the Third Armored (Spearhead) Division assaulted the great road center of Paderborn, Germany in an attempt to encircle the Ruhr industrial area. The fall of Paderborn was accomplished on that date, but brought no joy, as the previous night the great leader of the Spearhead Division, General Rose, had been killed, bringing grief and shock to all members of the division and all who had known him. On the 2nd of April Company "A" moved into the well-bombed airport at Paderborn. Although the encirclement of the Ruhr was one of the greatest achievements of the war it was not without cost. Numerous vehicular casualties were attributed, not to combat, but to the inexperience of new men in properly maintaining the vehicles and mechanical failures due to age. This company then moved on to Brakel, Sangerhausen, Quellendorf, Hedstedt and finally to Mucheln a small town in the vicinity of Halle for what appears to be a prolonged period of rest and rehabilitation. Maintenance is one of the most stressed phases of our present activities, particularly 1st and 2nd echelon, and our equipment is being rapidly put back into shape for whatever lies ahead.

COMPANY "B": At the beginning of the month "B" Company was attached to Division Trains in the vicinity of Korbach, Bermany, moving shortly thereafter to Haaren, thence to Alpen. From this area one platoon was detached to CC"R" furnishing maintenance by establishing vehicle collecting points as they moved with the combat command. On 7 April the company moved to Herste, the maintenance platoons taking with them the unfinished work from the previous area. Much of this work was completed here and on the 11th the company moved to Bishausen, leaving one plateon to complete the work. In this area wrecker crows worked day and night retrieving vehicles and moving them to vehicle collecting points for necessary maintenance. From the 16th to the 24th the entire company was bivouacked in the German airport at Köthen where between forty and fifty (40-50) German soldiers were apprehended in civilian clothes by the outposts. On the 24th this company moved to Sangerhausen, the present bivouac for a period of rest, rehabilitation and maintenance, although during division rest periods the greatest amount of work is accomplished by the Maintenance Battalion. During the month of April, 1945 this company marched a distance of three hundred and seven (307) miles, through country still not yet cleared of the enemy, and performing main-tenance to enable the combat commands to maintain their steady drive.

