

H E A D Q U A R T E R S  
501st ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO #446 US ARMY

*Doc.*

14 January 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division  
APO #446, US Army.

1. In compliance with memorandum, 14th Arm'd Division,  
4 January 1945, the Unit history for December 1944 is submitted.

2. The history (4 copies) and original copies of the  
unit and S-2 Journals are enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer

*Dale C. Mercer*  
DALE C. MERCER  
1st Lt. FA  
Adjutant

*601-61.2*

*#7*



R E S T R I C T E D

UNIT HISTORY OF 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF  
DECEMBER 1944.

After seven (7) days in an assembly area in the vicinity of Portieux, France, orders were received to move through the Vosges mountains into Alsace. The Battalion, less Battery "A" who had not received their M-7s from Marsailles, left the Portieux area at 1030, 1 December 1944. After an uneventful march, Battalion closed in the vicinity of Scherlenheim at 1920.

Orders to move into firing position in the vicinity of Niefern (coord: Q-87210-29840) were received on the morning of 2 December 1944. The Battalion closed into position at 1530, registered and fired it's first combat mission. The mission of the Battalion was to reenforce the fires of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division.

On the morning of the following day, 3 December 1944, the Battalion position was strafed by two (2) German planes. No casualties were incurred. During the evening counter-battery fires were received in the general area. The rounds did not land close.

At 1330, 4 December 1944, the Battalion left the Niefern area and closed in position in the vicinity of Engwiller, (Coord: 912316),. The mission of the Battalion was to reenforce the fires of the 171st Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division. At the time the 45th Division was attacking in the direction generally east and northeast of Metesheim.

During the morning while on reconnaissance for new positions, the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph H. Harrison, O-359 588, and his party were fired upon by what was thought to be enemy 88mm guns. Lieutenant Williams of the 398th Anti-Aircraft Battalion received a minor flesh wound from fragments, and Captain Tringali of the 398th Anti-Aircraft Battalion was knocked unconscious by the concussion.

The Battalion remained in position at Engwiller until 11 December 1944, attached to the 45th Division and reenforcing the fires of the 45th Division Artillery. On 7 December 1944 three (3) rounds of enemy 88mm landed in Battery "B" gun position. No damage was done and no casualties suffered. On 8 December 1944, Battery "A" joined the Battalion from the Portieux area and went into position. The first casualties as the result of enemy action were incurred on 9 December when Private William A. Hall, 12 002, 210, Battery "A" picked up an enemy hand grenade lying in the Battery area. The grenade exploded in his hands, injuring Private Hall and Sergeant Alvin J. West, 33 264 920, Battery "A". Private Hall, who received numerous fragment wounds about the legs, was evacuated to the hospital and subsequently dropped from assignment to the battalion. Sergeant West received a minor wound in the thigh, was treated at the Battalion Dispensary and returned to duty.

In the afternoon of 10 December 1944, three (3) planes, thought to be enemy Me 109s, flew over the Battalion area and the areas of the adjoining artillery Battalions. Anti-Aircraft units attached, opened fire. All three (3) planes were smoking and apparently were hit. One was seen to crash in the vicinity of Metesheim.

In the afternoon of 11 December 1944, the Battalion, relieved from attachment to the 45th Division, moved under the control of the 14th Armored Division to new positions in the vicinity of Mertzwiller, (Coord: Q9698-2920). While enroute to new position, two (2) M-7s from Battery "A" struck two (2) enemy glass anti-tank mines, on the outskirts of Mertzwiller. The explosion broke the track on one M-7 and the track, bogie, and suspension and damaging the engine of the other. The



Battalion Commander and Private Virgil W. Proctor Jr., 11 113 372, Headquarters Battery, who were standing nearby, received minor bruises. There were no other casualties.

On the afternoon of 12 December, the Battalion moved to new positions in the vicinity of Hegeny (Coord: 00318-32319), where it remained until the following day. On the morning of 13 December the Battalion moved towards the vicinity of Surgourg (Coord: 080338), by the way of Hagenau. The Battalion spent most of the day on the road because of traffic congestion. The Battalion went into position in the vicinity of Surbourg in the early hours of the morning, with a portion of Headquarters remaining on the road outside of town until after daylight. During the morning of 14 December, the Battalion moved forward to the vicinity of Soultz and later in the afternoon advanced to positions in the vicinity of Schoenenbourg, (Coord: 133393).

On 16 December the Battalion moved north to the vicinity of Reidseltz (Coord: R-1644), from which positions the batteries fired on targets inside the Siegfried Line, east and north-east of Wissenburg. The forward observers were observing from Schweighofen and Kapsweyer inside Germany. On 18 December, Battery "A" was placed in position at Coord: 183173 and observation posts were established in Kapsweyer to direct precision firing on pill-boxes of the Siegfried Line. On the following day, 19 December, Battery "A" fired on dragon teeth and pill-boxes. On 20 December the remainder of the Battalion moved forward to positions in the vicinity of Altenstatt, (Coord: 172-476), a few hundred yards short of the German border. On 21 December, the Battalion moved back to original positions in the vicinity of Reidseltz. On the night of 22 December and early morning of 23 December, enemy planes flew over the Battalion and surrounding areas, dropping flares. Information was received that paratroopers, dressed as American soldiers were dropped. Enemy artillery fire was received in the area of Battery "B" and Battery "C". No damage or casualties resulted. One round of large caliber landed in Reidseltz, approximately 200 yards from the Battalion Command Post, destroying a combat reconnaissance car belonging to another unit. No personnel casualty resulted. On 24 December, the Battalion moved back to positions in the vicinity of Ingolsheim (Coord: 179414).

Christmas Day was uneventful. Activity on both sides was at a minimum. On 26 December Captain Stanley H. Gaylord, Battalion S-2 was transferred from the Battalion to Division Artillery. On 27 December Captain Harvey C. McClintock Jr. was relieved as Battalion S-3 and assigned as Battalion S-2. Major William I. Smoot joined the Battalion and was assigned as Battalion S-3.

On the evening of 28 December the Battalion left positions at Ingolsheim and marched to new positions in the vicinity of Weyer, (Coord: Q5728), arriving in the early morning of 29 December. The Battalion remained in Corps reserve in the vicinity of Weyer until 1 January 1945.

R E S T R I C T E D



UNIT HISTORY OF 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1945.

On the morning of 1 January 1945, after being in Corps reserve with Combat Command "A" HEADQUARTERS, France (Coordinate Q-5728), since 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION moved north to positions in the vicinity of Neuwiller, France (Coordinate 4147). The mission of the battalion was to support Combat Command "A" of the 14th Armored Division. Later in the day, orders were received to reconnoiter for positions in the vicinity of Neuwiller, France (Coordinate 757-246). *Jan*

14 February 1945

On the morning of 2 January 1945, the battalion left the position at Neuwiller, France (Coordinate 757-246) and moved to positions in the vicinity of Engwiller, France (Coordinate 815-305). SUBJECT: Unit History  
TO: Commanding General, 14th Armored Division, APO 446, US Army.  
1. In compliance with memorandum, 14th Armored Division, 4 January 1945, the Unit History for January 1945 is submitted.  
2. The History (4 copies) and original copies of the unit and S-2 Journals are enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Dale C. Mercer*  
DALE C. MERCER  
1st Lt., FA  
Adjutant

614-61.2

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

UNIT HISTORY OF 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1945.

On the morning of 1 January 1945, after being in Corps reserve with Combat Command "A", in the vicinity of Weyer, France (Coordinate Q-5728), since early morning 29 December 1944, the battalion moved north to positions in the vicinity of Butten, France (Coordinate 623-414). The mission of the battalion was to support Combat Command "A" of the 14th Armored Division. Later in the day, orders were received to reconnoiter for positions in the vicinity of Neuwiller, France (Coordinate 757-249).

On the morning of 2 January 1945, the battalion left the position at Butten and moved as part of Combat Command "A" to Neuwiller, arriving at 1430. Service Battery went into position at Griesbach, France (Coordinate 780-238). At 1800, the battalion, less Service Battery, left positions at Neuwiller and entered positions in the vicinity of Reidheim, France (Coordinate 810-233) at 1845. At 0345, 3 January 1945, left the Reidheim position and closed into position in the vicinity of Weinbourg, France (Coordinate 784-303) at 0500. The mission of the battalion was to reenforce the fires of the 171st Field Artillery Battalion located in the vicinity of Eckartswiller and firing in the area around Wingen and Wimminau, and the area around Lichtenburg and Reipertswiller.

On 4 January 1945, orders were received to reconnoiter for positions in the vicinity of Engwiller, France (Coordinate 815-305). The battalion moved into Engwiller on 5 January 1945.

During the period of 5 January 1945 to 16 January 1945, the battalion remained in position at Engwiller reenforcing the fires of the 45th Infantry Division Artillery.

In the early afternoon of 7 January 1945, several rounds of enemy light Artillery landed in the town, approximately 200 yards from the battalion Command Post. From 12 to 15 rounds fell during the early morning of 8 January 1945. On the nights of 9, 10 and 11 of January 1945, enemy artillery continued to fall around the Command Post Area. The closest round landed approximately 100 yards from the Command Post. No damage or casualties were suffered.

On 11 January 1945, orders were received to move the battalion to the vicinity of Soultz. The battalion was to be relieved from its mission with the 45th Division Artillery and was to revert to the 14th Armored Division. While our Battalion Commander and his party were in Soultz locating positions, orders were received for the battalion to remain in position at Engwiller, and to remain attached to the 45th Division. The mission was to support the 313th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Reipertswiller. The battalion also supported the 1st battalion, 314th regiment and the 2nd battalion, 257th regiment.

The battalion remained in position at Engwiller until 16 January 1945 when its mission was changed to direct support of the 36th Engineer regiment. The battalion began moving to Zinswiller at 0830, 16 January 1945, closing at 1420. Between 1750 and 1820 hours, nine rounds of counter-battery were received by "A" and "B" batteries. Rounds were of heavy caliber. One round landed between number 5 and number 6 pieces of "B" battery causing four (4) casualties; 2 killed and 2 wounded. These were the first to be killed in the battalion as the result of enemy action.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

During the early morning of 17 January 1945, approximately 10 rounds of heavy caliber Artillery landed within 100 yards of the battalion Command Post. No casualties or damage was incurred.

During the afternoon of 17 January 1945, the battalion moved positions in the vicinity of Offwiller. This was prompted by the excessive counter-battery received in the Zinswiller area. Two (2) additional enlisted from the battalion were killed in Zinswiller on the night of 17 January 1945 when more enemy artillery was received. These men were members of Liaison and Maintenance parties who did not move with the battalion. One of the casualties was injured but died later, in the hospital.

On 20 January 1945, the battalion was relieved from attached to the 45th Infantry Division and reverted to the 14th Armored Division control. In line with Corps plan to withdraw to a new MLR, the battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of Ettendorf with the mission to reenforce the fires of the 103rd Infantry Division Artillery.

During the morning and early afternoon of 23 January 1945, the battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of Weitbruch to relieve the 12th Armored Division Artillery and reenforce the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery battalion, supporting the 142nd Infantry regiment. During the move the battalion was bombed by enemy jet-propelled aircraft. No damage or casualties resulted. The battalion remained in position at Weitbruch until 2 February 1945.

The operations of the battalion for the entire month of January were conducted in adverse weather conditions. Marches were made over roads made treacherous by ice and snow, and numerous missions were fired during heavy snow fall.

For the Commanding Officer

*Dale C. Mercer*  
DALE C. MERCER  
1st Lt. FA  
Adjutant

C O N F I D E N T I A L



**CONFIDENTIAL**

H E A D Q U A R T E R S  
501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO # 446 US ARMY

14 March 1945

*A/A*  
SUBJECT: ~~Unit History.~~

TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division,  
APO 446, US Army.

1. In compliance with memorandum, Headquarters, 14th Armored Division, 4 January 1945, the unit history for February 1945 is submitted.
2. The history (4 copies) and original copies of the unit and S - 2 Journals are enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Dale C. Mercer*  
DALE C. MERCER  
1st Lt., FA  
Adjutant

*614-719*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

UNIT HISTORY OF 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945.

The month of February 1945 was one of comparatively little activity. What offensive action there was took place during the first few days of the month. The remainder of the month was devoted to defensive operations with very little activity.

After having been in position in the vicinity of Weitbruk, France since 23 January 1945, reenforcing the fire of the 133rd FA Bn. in support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment, the Battalion received orders on 2 February 1945 to move to new positions in the vicinity of Bitschwiller, France. The mission of the Battalion was direct support of Combat Command "B" of the 14th Armored Division which was attached to the 36th Infantry Division. The Battalion, less Service Battery, moved by infiltration beginning at 1400 and closing at 1930, 2 February 1945. Service Battery remained in position in Brumath, France. In this mission, between the dates 2 February thru 5 February, the Battalion was very active in support of attack on Oberhoffen.

On 3 February 1945, the Fire Direction Center established an A S Flash Base on two water towers. One tower, OP # 18, was located in the factory area adjacent to the Battalion Command Post, (Coord; 88241990). The other tower, OP # 19, was located on the opposite side of Bitschwiller, (Coord; 09311839). During the night gun flashes were observed of what seemed to be an enemy Corps TOT. Our Battalion and Corps fired on the various enemy gun positions. Many were silenced. The flash base was set up again on the night of 4 February 1945. While there were no gun flashes, considerable movement of enemy vehicles was observed going north on the road from Bois de Soufflenheim. The Battalion fired harassing missions on the road. Results could not be observed.

On the morning of 5 February 1945, orders were received by infiltration to positions in the vicinity of Kurtzenhausen, France. The mission was to support the 117th Cavalry Regiment which was attached to Combat Command "B". The 117th Cavalry Regiment was holding the right sector of the Army front and liaison was established with the 63rd Royal African Artillery, 3rd DIA, 2nd French Army. On 7 February 1945, the Battalion had additional mission of reenforcing the fires of the 133rd FA Battalion.

Twelve rounds of enemy artillery shells were received in the area of our firing Batteries; 6 rounds in Battery "A"; 3 rounds in Battery "B" and 3 rounds in Battery "C". Of the 12 rounds received, 7 were duds. No casualties or damage resulted.

Activity for the period 8 thru 17 February 1945 was at a minimum. The usual harassing missions were fired, limited training was resumed, and a Battalion Rest Center was established at Brumath. During the early morning of 14 February 1945, 15 rounds of heavy caliber enemy artillery fell in Brumath, and in the vicinity of Service Battery's CP. No casualties or damages were suffered by this Battalion. The shells were 380mm and were presumably fired by a railroad gun referred to as, "Alsace Alice". The location of the gun has been reported at various times to be in the area of Soultz, and at several positions across the Rhine river.

On 18 February 1945, the Battalion received orders to move into positions in the vicinity of Ettendorf, France. The Battalion, less Service Battery, left in column at 1400 and closed in new positions at

C O N F I D E N T I A L



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1600. The Battalion CP was located in Ettendorf, in the same building occupied three weeks previously. The firing batteries went into position in the vicinity of Grassendorf, France. On the following day, Service Battery moved from Brumath to Scherlenheim, France. The mission of the Battalion was direct support of Combat Command "B" of the 14th Armored Division.

The remainder of the month was devoted to harassing and defensive action. An AS Flash Base was established with observers in Ringeldorf, (Coord; 90648-25147), and on a hill crest at Coord; 91676-25279. A number of targets consisting of small groups of enemy personnel and single vehicles were fired on, and numerous patrols by our Infantry were supported. Taking advantage of the favorable weather and terrain, the guns of the Battalion were calibrated on 28 February 1945.

An additional occurrence of interest to the Battalion was the battlefield appointment of Sgt. Henry F. McWeeny to 2d. Lieutenant on 16 February 1945.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



H E A D Q U A R T E R S  
501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO # 446 US ARMY

14 April 1945

*mar*

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division,  
APO # 446, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with memorandum, Headquarters, 14th Armored Division, 4 January 1945, the Unit History for March 1945 is submitted.

2. The History (4 copies) and original copies of the unit and S - 2 Journals are enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Dale C. Mercer*

DALE C. MERCER  
1st Lt., FA  
Adjutant

601-61.2



C O N F I D E N T I A L

UNIT HISTORY OF 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1945.

The passive action of the last ten days of February continued during the first ten days of March 1945. The Battalion CP remained in Ettendorf, France with the batteries in position in the vicinity of Grassendorf, France. Activity remained confined to harassing and defensive missions with the towns of Engwiller, Bitchoffen, Metesheim, and Mertzwiller, and the Hageneau Forest receiving most of the attention.

During the same period, the Corps and the Division were preparing for an attack. As part of this preparation, divisions within the corps and units within the division were shifted. On 11 March 1945, the Battalion received orders to move to Niederaltdorf, France with the mission of being in general support of Combat Command "B" of the 14th Armored Division.

On 14 March 1945, as a prelude to an attack, the 36th Infantry Division relieved the 14th Armored Division on the front. The 14th Armored Division was to regroup and prepare to follow the attack of the 36th Division. When the 36th Division reached Soultz, France, the 14th Armored Division was to pass through and continue the attack with Lauterbach, France as the objective. On the evening of 15 March 1945, the Battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of Niedermodern, France with the mission to support the attack of the 36th Infantry Division who were attacking through Mertzwiller to Greisbach and Gundershoffen. On 17 March 1945, the Battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of Forstheim, France.

On 18 March 1945, the 14th Armored Division moved forward to continue the attack as planned. The Battalion joined the column south of Forstheim. At Surbourg, France, Combat Command "A" continued the attack east while Combat Command "B" turned north to Soultz. From Soultz the 36th Infantry Division moved north to Wissembourg, France while Combat Command "B" of the 14th Armored Division moved east and north in multiple columns towards the Lauter river and the German border.

During the march to and beyond Soultz, the Battalion was in general support. At Hoffen, the Battalion went into direct support of Task Force Watson relieving Battery "B" of the 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion who remained attached. On the night of 18 March 1945, the Battalion went into position in the vicinity of Oberseebach, France.

At 1130, 19 March 1945, the 25th Tank Battalion of Watson's Task Force moved into Altenstadt, France and the Battalion moved into position in the vicinity of Geitershof, France. The attack turned east towards Kapsweyer and Steinfeld, Germany, and on 21 March 1945, the Battalion moved to Altenstadt, France. During the night of 21 March 1945, several

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rounds of light caliber enemy artillery fell in the vicinity of the Battalion CP. No casualties or damage resulted.

On 25 March 1945, the Battalion went into position in the vicinity of Kapsweyer, Germany. The Battalion CP was located in the cellar of the same house our forward observers were stationed during the previous entry into Germany in December 1944. During the afternoon, Battery "B" moved forward to position in front of Steinfeld, Germany which was inside the Siegfried Line. Battery "B", with the help of one gun from the 499th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and Battery "D" of the 398th AAA Battalion engaged enemy in Pill Boxes in front of the battery position and succeeded in taking 24 prisoners.

By 24 March 1945, the last German west of the Rhine River had been eliminated and the Division was placed in Corps Reserve. The Battalion moved to Vollmersweiller, Germany where it remained until the last day of the month.

When it appeared the month would end in performing the ignominious task of policing the litter and debris of battle, the Battalion left Vollmersweiller at 2315, 31 March 1945. After an all night march, it crossed the Rhine River, north of Worms, and closed into position at Georgenhausen, Germany at 1000, on Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945.

*Col. J. J. [illegible]*  
DATE OF [illegible]  
1st Lt. PA  
Adjutant



**SECRET**

HEADQUARTERS  
501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 446 U.S. ARMY

14 May 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division, APO 446,  
U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with memorandum, Headquarters, 14th Armored Division, 4 January 1945, the unit history for April, 1945 is submitted.

2. The history (4 copies) and original copies of the unit and S-2 Journal are enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Dale C. Mercer*  
DALE C. MERCER  
1st Lt., FA  
Adjutant

*[Handwritten signature]*

**SECRET**

26 JUL 1945

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

UNIT HISTORY OF 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1945.

In order to obtain a clear picture of the activities of the Battalion during the month of April, 1945, it is necessary to consider the broader aspects of the action that started on 2 April 1945 and which by the end of the month had carried our forces some 200 miles into the heart of Central and Southern Germany. In contrast with the action engaged in by the division during the previous months of combat; the relatively cautious offensive action, with limited objectives; and the defensive action which characterized the months of January, February, and the first half of March, April was a month of fast, multiple columned armored drives which called for constant movements, the necessity for supplying artillery support, on a very short notice, and numerous and frequent displacements.

After an all night march from Vollmersweiler, Germany, amidst the pillboxes and dragon's teeth of the Siegfried Line, the battalion crossed the Rhine river above Worms and went into position in the vicinity of Georgenhausen, Germany on the morning of Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945. Georgenhausen is located several miles east of the bombed and blasted city of Darmstadt.

On closing in its new position, the Division was relieved from attachment to the VI Corps and attached to the XV Corps. The mission of the Division was to drive East and North-east to protect the then exposed right flank of the Third Army. The main objective of the drive was the city of Neustadt, approximately ninety miles to the north-east.

To accomplish this mission, CC "A" of the Division was to drive north-east, passing below the city of Aschaffenburg, which at the time was offering considerable resistance to the U.S. 45th Infantry Division. CC "B" was to drive east to Lohr and north towards the objective. CC "R" was to follow the advance of CC "B" as far as Lohr where it would be given a specific mission.

The attack took off on the morning of 2 April 1945. The Battalion, in direct support of CC "R", left the position of Georgenhausen at 0700. After a continuous march in the face of little resistance, CC "B" at the head of the column encountered considerable opposition in the town of Lohr, and in the late afternoon the battalion was forced to go into bivouac off the road in the heavily wooded mountains, about ten miles south-west of Lohr.

Lohr was cleared and in the late morning of 4 April 1945, CC "R" left the bivouac area and moved through Lohr toward Gemunden. Again CC "B", at the head of the column, was held up by determined resistance and blown bridges at Gemunden. The battalion went into position in the vicinity of Noutenbach from where it supported the attack on Gemunden.

Gemunden was cleared and on 6 April 1945 CC "R", with the battalion in direct support, was given the mission to proceed through the town and attack to the right and away from CC "B". The battalion left the position at Noutenbach during the early afternoon of 6 April 1945 and proceeded to position in the vicinity of Aschfeld.

The division was now driving on its objective in three columns. CC "A" was continuing its attack north-east on the division's left flank. CC "B" was driving east and north on the division's front, and CC "R" was driving almost due east on the division's right flank.

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On 7 April 1945, the battalion moved on to Wilburhausen where further advance was held up by considerable artillery and heavy ack-ack fire against the head of the column at Gressenthal. Word was received that CC "A" had taken the objective, Neustadt, and the battalion was ordered to remain in position at Wilburhausen until further notice.

On 9 April 1945, the battalion received orders to move with CC "R" north through Neustadt to Oberstreu. The purpose of the move was to regroup the division prior to continuing the attack. CC "B" remained to continue its attack east to Schweinfurt. After the regrouping, CC "R" was on the division's left flank, with CC "A" in the middle and CC "B" on the right flank. To the left of CC "R" were elements of the Third Army.

The next mission of the division was to attack east towards the Main River, cross the River and continue south-east to cut the autobahn running south of Bayreuth. CC "R" was to drive east to a point south of Coburg, then south-east through Lichtenfeld, and to straddle the super highway south of Bayreuth.

The attack started in the morning of 11 April 1945. The battalion in direct support of CC "R", left the position at Oberstreu that afternoon and marched through Romhild to Roth. The following morning the battalion continued east to positions in the vicinity of Brikack. The head of the Command's column reached the Main River, meeting little resistance. Infantry and Tanks crossed the River and took Lichtenfeld.

On the morning of 13 April 1945, the battalion left Brikack, crossed the river, and went into position in the vicinity of Ruendorf. In the early afternoon the battalion moved south-east to Oberlangheim, and later continued southeast to Krogelstein. On 14 April 1945, while still in the vicinity of Krogelstein, the battalion was strafed by 2 Me 109's and 3 FW 190's, causing one personnel casualty and damage to several vehicles in Service Battery. Three of the planes were claimed shot down by the attached 398th AAA unit. On 15 April 1945, the battalion continued its move south-east, crossed the autobahn and went into position in the vicinity of Loupes. From this position, the battalion fired several successful missions against enemy Infantry and tanks attempting to slow the attack.

The next mission of the Division was to drive south along the autobahn and flank Nuremberg to the east while other elements of the Seventh Army were attacking the city. CC "A" was on the right flank, CC "B" in the center, and CC "R", with the battalion in direct support on the left flank.

The battalion left the position at Loupes in the afternoon of 18 April 1945 and marched south on the autobahn to Sindlbach. On the following day, the battalion moved to Reichelshofen and back to Sindlbach.

20 April 1945 was the beginning of what was destined to be the most hectic two weeks since entering combat. Nuremberg had been taken, Munich and the vaunted last Nazi redoubt was ahead. The enemy, while badly hurt, was not yet beaten. The attack had to be pressed to prevent the organization of effective delaying resistance.

The next objective was the Danube River. The division's sector was a comparatively narrow front along and west of the autobahn, leading from Nuremberg to Munich. CC "A" and CC "R", with the battalion in direct support, were to spearhead the attack. CC "A" who was encountering heavy resistance at Neumarkt, was to follow in reserve. CC "B" was the right column and CC "R" was the left, with an exposed left flank.



The battalion left the position at Sindlbach in the early afternoon of 20 April 1945, moved to Feutsch, and supported the attack south along the autobahn towards Allersberg. On the way to Feutsch, it was necessary to use a stretch of road along a ridge which was under constant enemy artillery fire. However, the battalion managed to get across with only one casualty, although there were several near misses. That night the head of the column met fierce resistance in the vicinity of Allersberg and the battalion went into position along the autobahn, several hundred yards north of Altenfelden.

On the morning of 21 April 1945, the enemy launched a fierce counter-attack, of company strength, from the vicinity of Allersberg. This attack was supported by a considerable amount of artillery. A large number of enemy artillery rounds fell within 150 to 400 yards to the front and left front of the battalion position. Service Battery displaced back to Feutsch. Headquarters Battery displaced back up the autobahn, approximately 2000 yards, where it continued to receive artillery fire. Battery "A", in position on the left side of the autobahn, was attacked from the woods on the exposed left flank and was forced to move back approximately 1500 yards. That portion of the autobahn between the Battalion and CC "R" Headquarters in Altenfelden, was subjected to sniper fire during most of the afternoon and night. As a result of this hectic day, only four casualties resulted.

On 22 April 1945, Battery "B" was attacked by enemy that had infiltrated into the woods around the battery position. The attack was beaten off by artillery fire supplied by the 400th Armored Field Artillery Battalion who were in position at Sperberslohe. That night the autobahn was again cut by enemy snipers. During the night several vehicles including two tanks, a truck, and a jeep were knocked out by enemy bazooka and riflemen.

On 23 April, CC "R" began an attack to clear Allersberg and continue its advance to the Danube River. The Battalion, less Battery "A", left the area at Sperberslohe and moved south to join CC "R". Battery "A" remained to support the 25th Tank Battalion in keeping the autobahn open until relieved by CC "A". The battalion, less Battery "A", went into position in the vicinity of Pyras, suffering one personnel casualty from artillery fire on the way. During the day this division was transferred from the control of the XV Corps of the Seventh Army to the control of the III Corps in the Third Army.

CC "R" continued the attack at 0630, 24 April 1945. The battalion left Pyras and moved to Schofhausen where it remained until 26 April 1945. The delay in the advance was caused by blown bridges over the Altmuhl River. SS troops counter-attacks prevented the construction of a bridge until Infantry crossed the stream and cleared the woods on the far side. On 26 April, the battalion left Schofhausen and marched south-west to Kosching.

Ingolstadt was cleared on 28 April 1945. CC "R" with the battalion still in direct support, took off for its next objective, the Isar River. The battalion left Kosching, crossed the Danube at Ingolstadt and marched south-east to the vicinity of Rottenegg. On 29 April, the battalion moved south to Obersussback and again to Reichersdorf. On 30 April the battalion moved south-east to Eugenback to support the attack of CC "R" on Landshut.

Thus the month of April ended with the division and the battalion driving rapidly toward the important bastion of Munich. During the month the battalion covered well over three hundred miles, took more than 600 prisoners, suffered very few casualties, and not once was it unable to give artillery support when called upon to do so.

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