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**Report date:** 1 August 1944 - 1 May 1945

**Title:** After Action Report of the United States Army 15<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion

**Abstract:** U.S. Army 15<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, After Action Report, 1 August 1944-1 May 1945 in the European Theater of Operations to include narratives, journals and incident reports.

**Number of pages:** 32 (some pages from the original document are not legible)

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**Classification:** Unclassified; Approved for public release

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AAR 58

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**AFTER ACTION REPORT**

**15th Armd Inf Bn.**

*Aug*  
**1 Nov 44 - 1 May 45**

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THE ARMOR SCHOOL  
FORT KNOX, KY.**

815 AIB 131

AAR# 372

AFTER ACTION REPORT

~~16TH ARMED FIELD ARTY BN.~~

9TH ARMORED DIVISION

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 1944

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 : Path: Ltr 5th A.D. :  
 : Date: 19 Oct 44 :  
 : Initials: AK :  
 : DATE: 14 November 1944 :  
 : .....

**RESTRICTED**

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
 APO 255, U. S. Army.

OPS  
 870  
 )

14 November 1944.

Subject: After Action Report for Month of August 1944.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
 (Through Channels)

In compliance with Par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following  
 After Action Report is submitted:

1. Campaign: Western Europe.
2. Losses in Action:

(a) Personnel Losses:

				<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	
KIA	10	LWA	33		LWA Remained on duty 13
DOW	3	LIA	12		
SWA	20	RTD	4	(Battle	
SIA	2			Casualties)	

Non battle casualties 20 RTD fr Abs Sk 5  
 Missing <sup>2</sup> OFFICERS

LWA Remained Duty 1 SWA 2 KIA 1

(b) Vehicular Losses:

Gun, 57 MM	1	Trailer, 1-T, 2wn cargo	1
Carrier, pers, H/T,		Truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 4x4	1
M3, W/O/Arm, WW	5	Truck, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 6x6	0
Trailer, M10	0		

3. Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:

Cartridge, Cal .30 Carbine	5000
Cartridge, Cal .30 rifle	10000
Cartridge, Cal .45	4000
Cartridge, Cal .30 MG	45000
Cartridge, Cal .50 MG	30000
Shell, .60 MM (HE)	114
Shell, .60 MM (ILL)	0
Shell, .81 MM (WP)	57
Shell, .81 MM (HEM)	100
Shell, .81 MM (NEL)	44
Shell, .57 MM (APC)	24
Shell, .75 How (HE) W/F 48	44
Shell, .75 How (HE) W/F 54	0
Shell, .75 How (WP)	70
Shell, .75 How (HEAT)	0
Grenade, hand, offensive	0
Grenade, hand, fragmentation	0
Grenade, hand, smoke	0
Grenade, hand, incend.	0
Rockets, M6A1	16

**RESTRICTED**

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## 4. Commanders:

Lt Col John B. Wintermute, Jr., 022039, Bn Commander.  
 Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
 Capt Donald K. Crafts, 0448757, Co "A".  
 Capt Arthur J. Elmore, 0450138, Co "B".  
 Capt Armand W. Gardner, 0470050, Co "C".  
 Capt William Werner, 0426179, Med Det.

## 5. Narrative:

Received our first field order to seize Laval on the second of August. We began our journey shortly after the Allied breakthrough at Avranches. The first encounter with the enemy occurred at our bivouac near St Hiliare du Harcourt. Several prisoners were taken and a few killed by "B" and "C" Companies. We also were subjected to our first enemy bombing in the field. Only light casualties were inflicted on two of our men. On Corps order we set up road blocks on roads SW of Laval. We were subjected for the first time to the renowned enemy 88 fire. We suffered light casualties and destroyed several enemy vehicles also killed and captured several enemy. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ At Cosse le Vivien an attempt was made to impede the progress of our column by heavy sniper fire and grenade launchers. This resistance was readily overcome and we proceeded on to Le Mans. While the Infantry pressed on into the city our Armored Column formed a ring of steel around the city to prevent any possible escape from the enemy forces within the city. After Le Mans had fallen we made a forced march to Bonnetable where Lt Col Wintermute and Major Hurley were wounded by 88 shell fragmentation and MG fire. Msjor Toney Giorlando, 0319491, assumed command. Captain Donald K. Crafts, Commander of Company "A", took over duties of S-3, and 1st Lt. Robert A. Lewis, 0449094, Company "B" assumed command of Company "A". After a few minor skirmishes the Battalion raced NW of Nonant Le Pins to support other Armored elements in the closing of the now famous Argentan-Falaise gap. The Battalion played a major part in the smashing of the fleeing 7th German Army. We were relieved at this point by the French 2nd Armored Division. The Battalion and other components of the Division sped South to the town of Sees, thence East to the outskirts of Dreux, arriving on the morning of the 16th of August. After a nasty assembly of the unit the order was given to take the city and secure the bridges. Unexpected opposition was met and a fierce encounter ensued. The enemy was well entrenched to all approaches to the city. Battle formation consisting of a line of light tanks and Infantry on foot laid down a withering field of fire, advanced determinedly towards the enemy positions, overwhelming them, and captured the city with bridges intact. Although our losses were not light they were more than compensated for by the number of Germans killed, wounded and taken prisoner. The populace afforded a tumultuous welcome. The efficiency of the FFI in this city was remarked by all. Another end run was made to Vernon, where we encountered and destroyed elements of that part of the German army which had escaped through the narrowing Falaise gap. In the meantime our B & C Companies now a part of Task Force Anderson, had been encountering little opposition, the enemy action being a rear guard delaying action. However near La Chapelle on the 22d of August the Task Force (Anderson) after being bombed and straddled by eight (8) enemy aircraft (Me 109's) had a bitter encounter with 200 SS troops uniquely concealed beneath wheat shocks. The Task Force operated with tanks in front and Infantry dismounted mopping up. No prisoners were taken. Our ever elusive Division then made a forced march to Mantes, where we assisted in pinning the remnants of the thoroughly bewildered enemy against his newly adopted defensive position - the Seine River. Lt Col Kenneth P. Gilson, 0359160, assumed command on the 28th August. Two days later we were greeted by the wildly cheering inhabitants of the great city of Paris. Intent upon our usual tactics of cutting off more groups of the badly battered enemy forces we sped northeast, met and broke up a determined enemy stand at Senlis. Meanwhile our sister Task Force was always on our flank in our pursuit of the harrassed enemy.

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(5. Narrative continued)

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On the 31st of August ~~we~~/closed in bivouac on the outskirts of Fleurines, while our Task Force on the same date arrived at the Compiegne Forest, scene of the signing of the armistice of World War I and the capitulation of France to the Nazis in 1940.

1 Inclosure  
S-3 Journal *Not rec'd volume 44 MXZ*

*Glenn G. Dickenson*  
GLENN G. DICKENSON,  
Lt Col Cavalry,  
Commanding.

RESTRICTED

.....  
 :  
 :Auth: Ltr 5th A.D:  
 :Date: 19 Oct 44 :  
 :Initials: *AB*  
 :DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 1944:

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
 APO 255, U. S. Army.

**RESTRICTED** 14 November 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of September 1944.

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

In compliance with Par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following After Action Report is submitted:

1. Campaign: Western Europe.
2. LOSSES IN ACTION.

a. PERSONNEL LOSSES:

		<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	
KIA	28	RTD	17 (Non battle)
DOW	5	LWA remained	Abs sk 81
SWA	18	duty	30 AWOL 2
SIA	1		RTD fr
LWA	59		abs sk 6
LIA	9		Missing 1
MIA	3	Returned fr	" 1

OFFICERS

KIA	1	Abs sk (non battle)	3
LWA	remained duty	2	SWA 1
LWA	1		

b. VEHICULAR LOSSES:

Gun, 57 MM	0	Trailer, 1-1, 2 wh cargo	2
Carrier, pers.,		Truck, 1/2 ton, 4x4	4
H/P, M3, W/O/Arm, WW	6	Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6x6	2
Trailer	1		

3. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE AND LOSSES.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>LOST BY ENEMY ACTION</u>
Cartridge, cal .30, carbine	5000	1000
Cartridge, cal .30, rifle	17000	3000
Cartridge, cal .45	6000	1000
Cartridge, cal .30 MG	101000	8000
Cartridge, cal .50 MG	20500	18000
Shell, .60 MM (HE)	366	60
Shell, .60 MM (TEL)	0	0
Shell, .81 MM (WP)	0	0
Shell, .81 MM (HEM)	250	0
Shell, .81 MM (NEL)	0	0
Shell, .57 MM (APC)	0	0
Shell, .75 MM How (HE) W/F 48	318	0
Shell, .75 How (HE) W/F 54 <del>X/1/1</del>	0	0
Shell, .75 How (WP)	100	0
Shell, .75 How (HEAT)	0	00
Grenade, hand, offens.	200	48
Grenade, hand, frag.	300	48
Grenade, hand, smoke	0	50
Grenade, hand, incend.	0	5
Rockets, M6A1	10	18

**RESTRICTED**  
 - 1 -

4. COMMANDERS:

Lt Col Kenneth P. Gilson, 0359160, Bn Commander.  
 Capt Thomas J. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
 Capt Arthur J. Elmore, 0450130, Co "E".  
 Capt Armand W. Gardner, 0470050, Co "C".  
 1st Lt Robert A. Lewis, 0449094, Co "A".  
 Capt William Werner, 0426179, Med Det.

5. NARRATIVE:

Upon the completion of a pontoon bridge at Compiègne on the first of September we (LT Gilson, TF Anderson) swept north a distance of 25 miles to the Belgium border. While on route we encountered stiff enemy resistance south of Noyon. Heavy machine-gun, mortar and "bazooka" fire had to be overcome and fairly heavy casualties and vehicular losses were suffered before we were able to attain our objective. The happy faces of the exuberant throngs in the city of Valenciennes more than compensated for the recent grim fighting. Little action occurred at the border but the thoroughly demoralized enemy was now surrendering to us by the hundreds. While located here Major Charles I. Webb, 0287066, assumed the duties of S-3 and Captain Donald K. Crafts reverted to his command of Company "A".

After a two day respite we again drove south and east crossing into Belgium on September 9th. Our great speed carried us into the Duchy of Luxembourg the following day and it was with no little pride that we, together with the rest of the Division, accepted the plaudits of the jubilant crowds in the capitol city itself. A few days rest and on the 16th of September the order of greatest importance to us all was given - the territory of the Reich was to be invaded by our forces. On that date at 1825 hours we crossed a hastily erected bridge at Wallendorf. Meeting little opposition and hesitating only to destroy abandoned pill-boxes we pushed on to Weiderspelen where for four days and nights we were subjected to continuous artillery fire by the enemy. The determined spirit of the enemy fighting upon his own soil was soon felt. Company "E" was on our left flank engaging the enemy north of the town, Company "A" repelled attempts by the enemy to retake the town and Company "C" had its hands full resisting several attacks at Hommerdingen to our right front. Supporting artillery pounded the enemy ceaselessly and silenced several batteries to our front. Our assault guns and mortars played a major part in repelling numerous enemy counter attacks. However the mine or tunnels in the Seifried fortifications afforded the enemy the means of infiltration through and behind our defenses and resulted in a retreat on 20th in the giving of an order to us to withdraw into Luxembourg. Our only avenue of escape was a road leading south-west into Wallendorf. At 1240 hours we began our withdrawal. In a never-to-be-forgotten dash out of this seemingly hopeless situation with every weapon firing we blasted our way through a route covered by withering enemy fire and roared across the bridge at Wallendorf on which the enemy was hurling heavy artillery and mortar fire. Is there a man alive today who will ever forget "Purple Heart Valley"? On this occasion our second commander was lost to us when Lt-Col. Kenneth P. Gilson suffered a chest wound in the withdrawal. Major Percy Bionardo assumed command when we reached our bivouac at Bettendorf, Luxembourg. A later report stated that a known enemy force of 25,000 troops had been in our vicinity and that fifty percent of this number became casualties. On the 23rd of the month Lt-Col. Glenn J. Dickenson, 0197385, arrived to assume command of the Battalion. The remainder of the month Company "A", with Headquarters Company weapons support, patrolled the territory northeast of Wallendorf overlooking the Our River bordering Germany.



(5. NARRATIVE: Continued)

During the same period Companies "B" & "C" with Task Force **RESTRICTED**  
~~Anderson~~ were also on outposts overlooking the Cur River.

1 Inclosure:  
S-3 Journal.

*Clery G. Dickerson*  
CLERY G. DICKERSON,  
Lt Col Cavalry,  
Commanding.

**RESTRICTED**

Ltr 5th A.D. dated:  
19 Oct 44.  
Date: 18 November 1944.  
Initials: 431

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 255, U. S. Army.

OPD  
Eld

18 November 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of October 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, U. S. Army,  
Washington, D. C. (Through Channels)

1. Campaign: Western Europe.

2. a. LOSSES IN ACTION:

ENLISTED MEN

LWA	1	(Non battle casualties)	
MIA	1	Abs sk	30
RTD	5	RTD fr	
LWA remained duty	1	Abs sk	22

OFFICERS

Abs Sk (Non battle) 1

b. VEHICULAR LOSSES: None.

3. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE & LOSSES

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
Cartridge, cal .30, carbine	500
Cartridge, cal .30, rifle	3688
Cartridge, cal .45	1000
Cartridge, cal .30 MG	9000
Cartridge, cal .50 MG	0
Shell, .60 MM (HE)	0
Shell, .60 MM (ILL)	0
Shell, .81 MM (WP)	5
Shell, .81 MM (HEM)	60
Shell, .81 MM (NEL)	10
Shell, .57 MM (APC)	22
Shell, .75 How (HE) W/F 48	0
Shell, .75 How (HE) W/F 54	0
Shell, .75 How (WP)	73
Grenade, hand, offens.	50
Grenade, hand, frag.	75
Grenade, hand, smoke	0
Grenade, hand, incend.	126
Rockets, M6A1	78

4. COMMANDERS:

Lt Col Glenn G. Dickenson, 0197385, Bn Commander.  
Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
Capt Donald K. Crafts, 0448757, Co "A".  
Capt Arthur J. Elmore, 0450138, Co "B".  
Capt Arthur W. Gardner, 0470050, Co "V".  
Capt William Werner, 0426179, Med Det..

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5. NARRATIVE:

The first three days of October were spent in the vicinity of the Cur River. The fourth to the fifteenth of the month were spent in bivouac in Belgium performing maintenance on vehicles and in tank-infantry tactics. On October sixteenth we crossed into Germany in the vicinity of Niederrheinbach where a number of these elements attacked Aachen. After the fall of Aachen, B and C Companies reverted to Battalion control and were located in the vicinity of Schorren, Belgium. While here Soviet and German Engineer Bridges were awarded to Officers and enlisted men of the unit. On the morning of the thirty-first we received orders to move out.

1 Inclosure:  
S-3 Journal.

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*11-11-44*  
*11-11-44*  
*11-11-44*

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 : ~~SECRET~~  
 : A. Ltr Hq 5th A.D.  
 : dated, 19 Oct. 1944  
 : Date: 1 Dec. 1944  
 : Initials: NBSK  
 : .....

**RESTRICTED**

**HEADQUARTERS 15th ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**  
**APO 255, U. S. Army**

1 December 1944.

**Subject: After Action Report for Month of November 1944.**

**To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.**  
**(Through Channels)**

In compliance with Par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following After Action Report is submitted:

1. Campaign: <sup>nak</sup> Western Europe.
2. Losses in Action:

(a) Personnel Losses:

ENLISTED MEN

LWA	3		
LWA (remained dy)	1	Non-battle	32
RTD	1		
RTD (non-battle)	16		

OFFICERS

RTD	1		
RTD (non-battle)	1	Non-battle	2

(b) Vehicular losses: N O N E

3. Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:

Cartridge, cal. .30 rifle	14,048
Cartridge, cal. .30 MG	160
Cartridge, cal. .50 MG	3,000
Shell, .60 MM (ILL)	10
Shell, .75 How HE W/F 48	588
Shell, .75 How HE W/F 54	117
Shell, .75 How WP	74
Grenade, hand, frag.	85
Grenade, hand, incend.	22
Grenade, hand, offensive	52
Grenade, hand, WP	50
Grenade, hand, smoke	33
Rockets, M6A1	69

4. COMMANDERS:

Lt Col Glenn G. Dickenson, 0197385, Bn Commander.  
 Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
 Capt Donald K. Crafts, 0448757, Co "A".  
 Capt Arthur J. Elmore, 0450138, Co "B".  
 Capt Armand W. Gardner, 0470050, Co "C".  
 Capt Clarence E. Anderson, 0390473, Sv Co.

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**RESTRICTED**  
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*Donald Cameron*  
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 11 Aug 1945

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5. NARRATIVE:

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On November first the Battalion relieved the 47th Armored Infantry Battalion at Hofen, Germany occupying outposts on a front of 4500 yards. Numerous fire missions upon active elements of the enemy opposing us were highly successful. Four prisoners were taken by B and C Companies. Slight wounds were suffered by only two members of the Battalion. One half-track was slightly damaged by enemy artillery fire. The unit was relieved on November 10th and retired to Belgium where tactical bivouacs were established until November 22nd. On this date Captain Gilbert R. Collins was evacuated to the hospital and 1st Lieutenant Nicholas Ticaric assumed duties of the Battalion Communications Officer.

Orders were received to return into Germany to an area  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles southeast of Roetgen. Our mission here was to repulse any counterattack that might be launched in this sector. Several roadblocks were established and on four successive nights three patrols were sent out to locate pill-boxes and to note any enemy activity in the vicinity of Konzen, Germany. No casualties were suffered while patrolling but three EM were slightly wounded by a round of enemy artillery fire in the bivouac area. On the 27th Captain William Werner was transferred to a general hospital and Captain LeRoy J. Holbert, O436692, assumed command of the Medical Detachment. Our position was in the same locale at the end of the month.

1 Inclosure:  
S-3 Journal.

*Glenn G. Dickenson*  
GLENN G. DICKENSON,  
Lt Col Cavalry,  
Commanding.

**RESTRICTED**



:  
 : At: [Redacted]  
 : d, 19 Oct. 1944  
 : Date: 3 Jan. 1945  
 : Initials: ABR  
 : .....

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HEADQUARTERS, 15TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 255. U. S. ARMY

OPD  
Gt

3 January 1945

Subject: After Action Report For Month of December 1944.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
( Through Channels )

In compliance with Par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following After Action Report is submitted:

1. Campaign: Western Europe.
2. Losses in Action:

(a) Personnel Losses:  
ENLISTED MEN

MIA	25		
KIA	25		
DOW	4	Non-Battle	128
LWA	214		
SWA	25		

OFFICERS

KIA	3		
LWA	9	Non-Battle	4

(b) Vehicular losses:

1 ea. Trailer, ammunition, M10

3. Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:

<u>TYPE OF AMMUNITION</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>LOST DUE TO EFA</u>
Cartridge, cal. 30, carbine	13,000	3,000
Cartridge, cal. 30, rifle	50,500	20,000
Cartridge, cal. 45, S.M.G.	1,000	1,000
Cartridge, cal. 30, MG.	47,000	8,000
Cartridge, cal. 50, MG.	2,000	0
Shell, 60mm Mortar, H.E.	392	175
Shell, 60mm Mortar, Ill.	40	0
Shell, 81mm Mortar, W.P.	220	0
Shell, 81mm Mortar, H.E.L.	1,100	0
Shell, 75mm How, H.E. w/fuse, M48	805	0
Shell, 75mm How, H.E. w/fuse, M54	120	0
Shell, 75mm How, W.P.	245	0
Shell, 81mm Mortar, H.E.H.	100	0

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**3. (Continued) Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:**

Grenade, hand, offensive	50	75
Grenade, hand, fragmentation	201	150
Rockets, M6A1	275	100
Grenade, anti-tank, W.P., M15	50	100

**4. COMMANDERS:**

Lt Col Glenn G. Dickenson, 0197385, Bn Commander.  
Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
Capt George W. Kellner, 0373265, Co "A"  
1st Lt Robert H. Hoffman 01310443 Co "C"  
1st Lt Warren A. Hedlin, 0441290, Co "B"  
Capt Leroy J. Holbert, 0436692, Med Det.  
Capt Clarence E. Andersen, 0390473, Sv Co.

**RESTRICTED**

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5. NARRATIVE:

Having been relieved from its patrolling activities near Reetgen, Germany on Dec. 1st the battalion proceeded to a tactical bivouac area 2½ miles southeast of Neuderf, Belgium. For the following eight days the companies trained in a series of firing problems. During this period decorations were awarded by General Oliver and addresses were made by Col Cole and Major Phillipsborn of CCB.

On Dec 10th the battalion moved to an assembly area 1½ mi northeast of Hurtgen, Germany. Here in the shell-pecked forest still strewn with the dead and the shattered equipment of recent battles the order was received to attack the following morning. At 0745 hours on the 11 of Dec the line companies, each with a platoon of tanks attached, launched an assault against the well-entrenched enemy. From the start the going was tough. Terrific enemy mortar and artillery fire resulted in heavy casualties but an advance of several hundred yards was made and the Bn CP was moved forward to Kleinbau, Germany. Bitter weather and continued heavy enemy fire forced our men to dig in and hold. All available replacements were placed in the line and on the morning of the 14th of Dec. another attack was made. A determined stand was made by the enemy resulting in small gains in yardage. Though battle-scarred, weary from lack of food and sleep and numb from cold, the gallant remnants of our unit rallied to the urgent appeal of their leaders and drove east on the morning of Dec 15th and by 1000 hours had taken the first of three objectives ( a forest ¾ miles southeast of Strass). Splendid assistance from other units in the taking of the second objective permitted the occupation of the final objective ( a hill overlooking the city of Windon on the Rier River ) at 1030 hours on Dec 16th. Here our troops dug in and the following day the Bn CP was moved to Strass and 3 days later to Bergheim until the night of Dec 22nd. The hill was held despite enemy air attacks, heavy mortar and artillery fire and counterattacks in force each morning. The unit had been attached to CCA on Dec 20th until we were relieved by the 330th Inf and withdrew to an assembly area 1½ miles northeast of Hurtgen. A letter of commendation for our splendid work while under his command was received from General Regnier on Dec 26th. Having reverted to CCB on the 23rd of Dec we moved under this command the following day to a bivouac area 4 miles northeast of Verviers, Belgium. A spirit of thanksgiving prevailed on Xmas day amid our reduced ranks - church services were well attended and the holiday dinner with all the trimmings was gratefully indulged in by all. The remainder of 1944 was spent in this area with a few alert in force, reconnaissance parties very active and the swelling of our ranks once again by the assignment to the battalion of 275 replacements.

1 Inclosure:  
S-3 Journal.

*Glenn G. Dickenson*  
GLENN G. DICKENSON,  
Lt Col Cavalry,  
Commanding

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SECRET  
Classified, 19 Oct. 1944.  
Date: 2 Feb. 1945  
Initials:                     

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HEADQUARTERS, 15TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 255, U. S. ARMY

2 February 1945

Subject: After Action Report For Month of January 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
( Through Channels )

In compliance with Par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following After Action Report is submitted:

1. Campaign: Western Europe.
2. Losses in Action:
  - (a) Personnel Losses:
    - Number of Enlisted Men dropped from Battalion Strength on account of sickness, Forty-eight (48).
    - Number of Enlisted Men returned to duty from Hospitals, Twenty-six (26).
  - (b) Vehicular Losses:
    - NONE
3. Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:
  - NONE
4. Commanders:
  - Lt Col Glenn G. Dickenson, 0197385, Bn Commander.
  - Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co .
  - Capt George W. Kellner, 0373265, Co "A" .
  - 1st Lt Warren A. Hedlin, 0441290, Co "B" .
  - Capt Jack Rice, 0258833, Co "C" .
  - Capt Leroy J. Holbert, 0436692, Med Det.
  - Capt Cecil D. Benson, 01012649, Sv Co.

5. Narrative:

On the 1st of January the battalion was in a tactical bivouac area near Verviers, Belgium, where Co's married up to TASK FORCE DICKENSON and TASK FORCE ANDERSON. Extensive training for our reinforcements in Tank-Infantry tactics prevailed during the greater part of the month with an occasional reconnaissance patrol operating on the road to Malmedy, Belgium.

*Jan 12*

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5. Narrative: (continued)

On the 25th of January General Oliver awarded medals and decorations. Training continued and on the 27th we received orders to move. The following day we arrived at Astenet, Belgium, where we continued our extensive training and performed first echelon maintenance until the close of the month.

1 Inclosure:  
S - 3 Journal.

*Glenn G. Dickenson*  
GLENN G. DICKENSON,  
Lt Col Cavalry,  
Commanding

**RESTRICTED**

SECRET

RESTRICTED  
Approved, 19 Oct 1944.  
Date: 4 March 1945  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

HEADQUARTERS 15TH AIRBORNE TROOP BRIGADE BATTALION  
APO 255, U. S. Army.

4 March 1945.

Subject: After Action Report for Month of February 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
( Through Channels )

In compliance with par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following After action report is submitted:

1. Campaign: Germany.
2. Losses in Action:

(a) Personnel Losses:

Absent Sick - 44	Returned to duty - 69	
(non-castle)		
Lightly wounded in action -	36	
Seriously wounded in action -	4	
Lightly injured in action -	3	
Killed in action -	4	
Missing in action -	2	
Total Losses	<u>93</u>	69 returned

(b) Vehicular Losses:

Half tracks (personnel carriers) -	8
Truck, 4 X 4, 1/2 Ton	<u>1</u>
Total veh. losses	- 9

3. Ammunition Expenditure and Losses:

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE

Shell, .75 MM HE W/F M48	175
Shell, .75 MM W/P	10
Shell, .75 MM A.P.C.	45
Shell, .76 MM HE W/F M48	69
Shell, .76 MM A. P. C.	21
Cartridge, Cal. .30, Rifle	10,752
Cartridge, Cal. .30, Carbine	3,000
Cartridge, Cal. .30, M/G	20,000
Cartridge, Cal. .50, M/G	2,200

AMMUNITION LOSSES

N o n e

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605-10,200

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**RESTRICTED**

4. Commanders:

Lt Col Glenn G. Dickenson, 0197385, Bn Commander.  
Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
Capt George W. Kellner, 0373265, Co "A".  
1st Lt Warren A. Hedlin, 0441290, Co "B".  
Capt Jack Rice, 0258833, Co "C".  
Capt Leroy J. Holbert, 0436692, Med Det.  
Capt Arthur J. Elmore, 0450138, Sv Co.

5. Narrative:

On the 1st of February the Battalion was in a tactical bivouac at Astenet, Belgium. Continued training of reinforcements prevailed at this time. The Battalion made an administrative march northwest into Holland and arrived at Ubachsberg at 0015 on the 5th.

Training continued with the Companies married and in task forces. New Assault guns were received and fired on the 15th.

News of the Ninth Armies crossing the Roer River and smashing of the Germans Roer defenses came simultaneously with our moving orders and on the 24th we made a forced march to within sight of the famous river. We crossed the Roer at Linnich, Germany on the 25th at 0540 amid the thunder of our tremendous artillery.

Moving up to the line we received attack orders and on the 26th Task Force Anderson with "B" & "C" Companies took 4 objectives. Task Force Dickenson charged forward on the 27th and at 1700 captured Munchen Gladbach Rheindahlen. We took about 150 prisoners and lost 4 EM killed in action and approximately 40 EM wounded in action. The roads were congested with fleeing German civilians however they did not heed the progress of our forces. On the following day a married platoon of Company "A" and elements of Hqs Company cleared the town of Wickrath, Germany and the end of the month found us with new orders.

1 Inclosure:  
S - 3 Journal.

*Glenn G. Dickenson*  
GLENN G. DICKENSON,  
Lt Colonel Cavalry,  
Commanding.

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

Organization: 15th Armd Inf Bn.

FROM: 1 February 1945

TO : 28 February 1945

PLAC : BELGIUM, HOLLAND,  
GERMANY

**RESTRICTED**

TIME IN OUT	Ser- ial No.	TIME DATE	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC., ACTION TAKEN
1 Feb			Located at Astenet, Belgium (798339) Training no activity.
2 Feb			Training - no activity.
3 Feb			" " "
4 Feb			" " " billeting party left area at 0830.
5 Feb			Left area at 2100 heading northwest.
6 Feb			Arrived at 0015 at Ubachsberg, Holland at (739522). Training - no activity.
7 Feb			Same as 2 Feb.
8 Feb			" " " "
9 Feb			" " " "
10 Feb			" " " "
11 Feb			" " " "
12 Feb			" " " "
13 Feb			" " " "
14 Feb			" " " "
15 Feb			" " " " billeting party went out at 0830 to the vicinity of Ubach. Test firing of Assault Guns and mortars.
16 Feb			Same as 2 Feb.
17 Feb			" " " "
18 Feb			" " " "
19 Feb			" " " "
20 Feb			" " " "
21 Feb			" " " "
22 Feb			" " " "
23 Feb			" " " "
24 Feb			Left area at 1330 - arrived at Baesweiler, Germany (908576) at 1530.
25 Feb			Left area at 0400 crossed Roer River at 0540. Arrived in Boslar, Germany at 0645 (017650). Left area at 1930 arrived in biv at 2000 (023683) 200 yds N of Hettorf, Germany. Local security est & maintained.
26 Feb			Received attack orders. Left area at 1330 arrived at jump-off area at 1400 at (029709) NE of Kleinbouslar, Germany. Moved to area S of Katzem, Germany (031713) orders to jump-off in morning. TFA (Anderson) w/B & C Co's. captured 4 towns with only light resistance.
27 Feb			TF Dickenson left area to go into attack - 1st objective taken by doughboys - Munten Glaabach Rheindahlen (0484) taken by our unit at 1700 (406th Inf in support). 150 prisoners taken - 1 KIA Co "A" - 1 KIA Co "B".

**RESTRICTED**

FROM: 1 February 1945

Organization: 15th Arm Inf Bn.

TO : 28 February 1945

PLACE: BELGIUM, HOLLAND,  
GERMANY

**RESTRICTED**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>Ser-</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC., ACTION TAKEN</u>
<u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>ial No.</u>	<u>DATED</u>	
27 Feb (Continued)			Weather good - visibility poor - Terrain, <sup>not</sup> very favorable. (Numerous German civilians (evacuees) fleeing advance of our units - however, not interfering with traffic on roads).
28 Feb			Bn Hqs located at Lotsenstelle, Germany (030837) $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of Munten Gladbach Ryndallen, Germany. Line Companies established & maintained road blocks during this period. Married platoon & part of Hqs Company cleared town of Wickrath, Germany (075825).

*C. I. Webb*  
C. I. WEBB,  
Maj, Inf, S-3.

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**RESTRICTED**

**SECRET**  
Auth: Ltr Hq 5th A.D.  
dated 19 Oct 1944  
Date: 9 April 1945  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 255, U. S. Army.**

9 April 1945.

**Subject: After Action Report for Month of March 1945.**

**To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
( Through Channels )**

In compliance with Par 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following After Action Report is submitted:

**a. Campaign: Germany.**

**b. Losses in Action:**

(1) Personnel Losses:

Sick Non-battle-----31          RTD-----54

(2) Vehicular Losses:

None.

**c. Commanders:**

Lt Col Glenn G. Dickenson, 0197385, En Commander.  
Capt Thomas V. O'Keefe, 0403929, Hq Co.  
1st Lt James P. Norment, 0520896, Co "A"  
1st Lt Warren A. Hedlin, 0441290, Co "B"  
Capt Jack Rice, 0258833, Co "C"  
Capt Leroy J. Holbert, 0436692, Med Det  
Capt Arthur J. Elmore, 0450138, Sv Co

**d. Attachments and Assignments:**

Assigned to XIII Corps, 9th United States Army.

**e. Movements, boundaries, and command posts.**

Tactical movement within XIII Corps sector.

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Command posts located at the following towns and coordinates:

	Bunhoven, Germany	055 840	1 March 1945
	Hehn, Germany	046 881	2 March 1945
	Steves, Germany	058 064	3 March 1945
	Vorst, Germany	009 016	11 March 1945
1½ miles SE	Kottulin, Germany	76 69	31 March 1945

f. Ammunition expenditure and Losses:

None.

g. Narrative:

This month was one of comparatively little action for a unit as active as ours. On the 1st we were holding positions on the line from the "rat race" we had just made in our dash for the Rhine. We moved the line forward three different times on this date and captured some 37 prisoners. The following day we were left in the dust by our brothers in areas 30B and 30A, and on the 3rd we moved to Steves, Germany to establish military government for the German people in this area. We remained there until 11 March when we then moved to Vorst, Germany and administered government to that town and area.

General Cliver awarded decorations to Officers and Enlisted Men for heroic and meritorious services rendered in previous operations. Lt Colonel Dickenson was awarded The Silver Star.

Training at this time consisted of review and intensive orientation, so as to enable everyone to be familiar with events to come. The 9th United States Army as well as others were crossing the Rhine and we tethered at the leash awaiting to be released at any time for the big push. Our break finally came on the 30th and on the last day of the month we crossed the famous Rhine river at 1700 at the Wesel bridgehead and coiled into bivouac 1½ miles south-east of Kottulin, Germany.

h. Comments.

Section I - Personnel Matters

- (1) Morale and Discipline: Excellent.
- (2) Reinforcements received 33.
- (3) Awards and Decorations:

- 2 - Silver Star Medals
- 18 - Bronze Star Medals



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Section II - Intelligence Matters

- (1) None.
- (2) None.

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Section III - Operations

No comments.

Section IV - Supply and Maintenance Matters

No comments.

Section V - Civilian

Civilian morale or reception: Of a cooperative nature and very receptive.

*Glenn G. Dickenson*

GLENN G. DICKENSON  
Lt Colonel Cavalry  
Commanding

1 Inclosure  
S-3 Journal.

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e. Movements, boundaries, and command posts.

Tactical missions between the Rhine, and Elbe Rivers.  
Command posts located at the following towns and  
coordinates:

1½ mi SE of Nottulin (7669)	1 April
Coiled at (379885)	2 April
Coiled at (735970) SW of Vlotho	3 April
Hamel, Germany	10 April
Brunau, Germany	13 April
Walsleben (780705)	15 April
Brome (174497)	16 April
Hanum (113588)	17 April
Wittingen (030633)	17 April
Waddekath (068638)	20 April
Radenbeck (120545)	24 April

f. Ammunition expenditure and losses:

TYPE OF AMMUNITION	LOSS DUE TO ENEMY ACTION	EXPENDED IN COMBAT
Cartridge, cal. 30 carbine	2000	800
Cartridge, cal. 30 rifle	8000	1300
Cartridge, cal. 45 submg.	900	500
Cartridge, cal. 30 MG	12000	16000
Cartridge, cal. 50 MG	1300	1950
Shell, 81mm Mortar H.E.L.	0	69
Shell, 81mm Mortar W.P.	0	7
Shell, 105 How. H.E. w/fuse, M48	0	54
Shell, 105 How. H.E. w/fuse, M54	0	32
Shell, 105 How. W.P.	0	19
Rocket, Anti-tank, A.P.	28	0
Rocket, Anti-tank, W.P.	11	0
Grenade, hand, frag.	25	8
Grenade, hand, offensive	15	0
Grenade, hand, smoke	12	0
Grenade, hand, incend.	10	2
Grenade, rifle, H.E.A.T.	18	0
Grenade, rifle, WP M-19	10	0
Flare, trip, M-49	8	0
Shell, 75mm Gun, H.E.	0	31
Shell, 75mm Gun, A.P.C.	0	2
Shell, 76mm Gun, H.E.	0	57
Shell, 76mm Gun, A.P.C.	0	19

**g. Narrative:**

On the first of April this unit and the 81st tank Battalion were "married" to form Task Force Dickenson and Task Force Anderson. Having received orders to drive east, we raced to Germany's last great water barrier, the Rhine River, and crossed it without difficulty. In the open country east of the Rhine resistance was slight, but a number of the enemy's vaunted 88's were captured and destroyed. As our reconnaissance platoon approached the Weser River near the city of Minden, the few remaining bridges were destroyed by the enemy. A few days respite along the famous Autobahn was highlighted by the accurate firing of our assault-gun platoon which resulted in the sinking of eleven river barges and the infliction of heavy damage on a well-camouflaged factory on the far side of the river. On April 10th we swung a right hook at the foe and swept across the Weser River at Hameln, home of the legendary Pied Piper. Here road blocks were maintained for three days until orders were received to close with the other elements of the division which were now within sight of the Elbe River. A forced march of 122 miles through the heart of Germany ensued. Our stay on the Elbe was brief. We were called upon to return west to meet a threat to our supply lines. The famous Panzer Division Clausewitz, newly reformed at Dresden, had crossed the Elbe to the north and was endeavoring to disrupt our lines of supplies and communication while it infiltrated to the south in the hope of reaching the Harz Mountains for future guerilla warfare. On the 17th of April we arrived in Wittingen, Germany where misfortune befell us. Lt. Col. Dickenson was evacuated for injuries received in a vehicle accident. The next day with Major Emerson F. Hurley in command, we linked up with the British on our northern flank. Many clashes with the enemy followed. Our road blocks repulsed several attempted penetrations. Heavy artillery and many air attacks mopped up the armored equipment caught in this pocket. The densely wooded areas were littered with dead Germans. Hundreds of prisoners were taken. Never in the history of modern warfare had a division been so short-lived! All enemy threats having been eliminated, we moved to Radenbeck, Germany, "unmarried", and established security patrols and assisted the Military Government in their relations with a now quiescent populace.

**h. Comments:**

**Section I - Personnel Matters**

- (1) Morale and Discipline: Excellent
- (2) Reinforcements received: 4- they satisfactorily filled their jobs.
- (3) Awards and Decorations: None

## Section II - Intelligence Matters

- (1) No comments.
- (2) It was estimated the enemy's personnel and material losses were:

Prisoners of war	396
Killed	78

### Material losses, destroyed:

Trucks	6	Trailers	4
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A - T 2

Motorcycles 3

Tanks 7

Staff Cars 5

Scout Cars 3

Halftracks 7

Artillery : 2 - 150mm

2 - 105's

19 - 88's

6 - 76's

1 Railroad yard

11 Barges sunk

1 Warehouse of ordnance equipment

2 Factories destroyed

2 Hospitals

## Section III - Operations

For the most part of the month our task was the exploiting of the break-through of the enemy lines. The formation used was one married platoon, Assault gun platoon and Mortar platoon in the advance guard. The remainder of the Task Force comprised the main body. It was found that by keeping the Mortars well up in the column, they were able to give quick support when the point ran into resistance and enable the advance guard to quickly over-run most of the resistance encountered without undue loss of time.

The artillery followed our Task Force closely and was always in a position to quickly give us support which enabled us to subdue resistance and make tremendous gains. All orders issued to units within the Task Force were issued verbally.

## Section IV - Supply and Maintenance Matters.

No comments.

**Section V - Civilian**

Civilian morale or reception: Of a cooperative nature and receptive.

1 Inclosure  
S - 3 Journal.

*Emerson F. Hurley*  
Emerson F. Hurley  
Major Infantry  
Commanding

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Cpn JOURNAL

From: 1 April 1945

To: 13 April 1945

Place: Germany

Organization: 15th Arm'd Inf Bn.

TIME	SER-	TIME	INCIDENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, ORDERS, ETC.	NOTICE
IN.	COI	DATE		
1 April			Received movement and mission orders. Left area at 1400. Secured bridges and roads at (110753). Established road blocks and local security. Crossed Dortmund Canal at 1500. Took more than 10 prisoners. Maj Webb returned from leave.	
2 April			Left area at 0700. Encountered light resistance, knocked out two tanks and captured one SS and a 20mm ack-ack gun. Left 2 light Bns and one med Bn and one sec of Inf to block roads south of Munster. Coiled at 2030 at (373195). Est. road blocks and local security.	
3 April			Left area at 0700. met light resistance, took well over 150 prisoners, captured thirteen SS's and knocked out a few more, also one tank. We reached the Weser River at 1700. Coiled into biv at 1815 at (735870) 2 1/2 mi SW of Wlotho. Est. and maint road blocks and local security.	
4 April			In same locality. Recon reconnoitered for bridge over the Weser river, all bridges out in the area. Assault guns knocked out 11 barges with troops on board. Mortars fired a few successful missions on factory and other positions. B's on road blocks. Road block left behind to block roads S of Munster rejoined TFD... mission was very successful having captured 225 prisoners.	
5 April			Took a few prisoners. Road blocks and local security maint. Moved CP 900 yds east.	
6 April	7 April		Took a few prisoners, road blocks and local security maintained.	
8 April			Alerted for 1000 move, called off base as 7 April.	
9 April			Alerted for movement. Captured a few prisoners. Lt Col Dickenson and Maj Webb left for Hameln at 0700;	
10 April			to contact 50th Inf Div. Contact was made at 0830. Bn left area at 0730, crossed the Weser river at 1500, coiled on a ridge of Hameln. Road blocks on roads N of Town. Est R/S & L/S.	
11 April			Maintained R/S & L/S. Took 7 prisoners. Received route of march.	
12 April			Maintained R/S & L/S. Took 5 prisoners. 102d Inf contact unit arrived at 1845.	
13 April			Moved on Corp order at 0845. Traveled 122 mi to Brunau at (525678) arrived at 2000. Est R/S & L/S. Received movement orders.	

Opn JOURNAL

FROM: 14 April 1945

Organization: 15th Armd Inf Bn.

TO: 29 April 1945

PLACE: Germany

TIME	SER-	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
IN	IAL	DATED		
14 April			Patrolled Route "A" from P/L DD to EE and flushed area N of Route "A" to CCB boundary line in the S and W from P/L DD to EE. Left area at 1645, arrived at 2000 at (805738). Ordered to patrol Elbe River.	
15 April			Called off at 2300. Patrolling area from Elbe River to P/L EE and from CCR B/L south to CCA B/L. Task Force divorced, "A" & "C" Co's, moved out at 1245, arrived at 1315 at (780705) at Walsleben. Est R/S & L/S. Received movement orders.	
16 April			Left area at 0745 arrived in new area at 1030 at (360654) at Recklingen. Alerted for move at 1145. Co's moved out married at 1445 to flush area from Brome (174497) to Mellin (202553). Coiled in Brome at 1730. Set and maintained R/S and L/S.	
17 April			Left area at 0615 to set up defensive positions from Chrdorf (079600) to Zasenbeck (109573). CP at Manum (113588) in position at 0830. Mission accomplished at 1330. Left area at 1630 arrived at Wittlingen at 1730 (030633) for defensive positions. Set and maintained R/S and L/S. Knocked out one enemy tank and one hv scout car. Capt Kellner RFD as A Co Commander. Capt Collins RFD as Comm Officer. Col Dickenson evacuated. Maj Hurley in Command.	
18 April			1 married plat moved to Lindhof (117629) at 1330 to secure road-net in town. Strong; enemy column attacked road block at 2100 with three American vehicles in the lead. One married plat sent up to help support at Lindhof. One plat withdrew to defensive positions between Lindhof and Baselnorst (096620) at 2130. Estimated 50 enemy vehicles in woods NW out of Lindhof. Artillery fired on enemy positions.	
19 April			Enemy attack at 0730 from woods south of defensive positions. Lost two tanks but held position. Estimated 50 enemy vehicles destroyed in woods south of positions. Air and artillery fired on enemy positions. I & R patrolled from Wittlingen to Suderwittlingen.	
20 April			Captured 17 prisoners. Enemy broke through R/S at Suderwittlingen and Chrdorf, R/S engaged enemy, artillery knocked out two vehicles of the group. Received orders to flush woods east of Waddekath. Left area at 1700 arrived in Waddekath at 1730. R/S & L/S set and maintained. Captured 30 prisoners. I & R ran patrols from Waddekath to Wittlingen thru the night.	

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FROM: 21 April 1945

TO: 30 April 1945

PLACES: Germany

Organization: 15th Armd Inf Bn

TIME	DATE	INCIDENTS, PLACES, EVENTS, ETC.
21 April		Maintained road blocks and local security. Seven enemy prisoners taken. Woods east of Radbeuth cleared. Found 1 tiger I and 1 light I and 30 other vehicles all knocked out in the woods. I & A ran patrols thru the night.
22 April		Maintained road blocks and local security. I & A plat patrolled as usual, met a enemy patrol which escaped.
23 April		Same as 22 April.
24 April		Received movement and mission orders. Withdrew all road blocks, companies unmarshaled. Left area at 1445. Arrived at 1530 at Radenbeck at (120545). B Co established CP at Knesebeck at (007576), A Co CP at Radenbeck. C Co remained marshaled with PFA to patrol area. On mission to patrol roads west and east of CP location. Set up military gov't, Est and maint R/D's and L/S.
25 April		Maintained road blocks, local security, all gov't and patrols.
26 April		Same as 25 April.
27 April		C Co unmarshaled and moved to Voitze (130485).
28-30 April		Same as 25 April.

*Charles H. ...*  
 Capt Maj  
 S - 3

