

C O N T E N T S

- I NARRATIVE OF ACTION
 I Pursuit Phase
 II Harz Mts Operations
 III Defense of Elbe Bridgehead
- II ROSTER OF COMMANDING OFFICERS
- III ATTACHMENTS
- IV BATTLE LESSONS
- V LOSSES IN ACTION
- VI AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

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I

NARRATIVE OF ACTION

HEADQUARTERS 330TH INFANTRY
APO 83 U S ARMY

PHASE I - PURSUIT PHASE CONT'D

The fast moving phase continued with the Regt following closely behind the 2d Armd Div. The mission continued to be one of mopping up, establishing rd blocks and assuming responsibility for areas behind the advance of the 2d Armd Div.

There was practically no fighting involved in the operation, the 2d Armd Div having cleared all resistance in the 330th CT zone of advance. The most difficult phase of the operation was the controlling, feeding and administering to the thousands of displaced persons as well as establishing military government in the areas overrun, and guarding installations, warehouses, etc, to prevent looting by German civilians and displaced personnel.

1 April 1945

K Co rejoined 3d Bn at 0830 after having been relieved of mission of defending bridges over DORTMUND - EMS CANAL.

The 2d Bn was ordered to take over defense of AHLEN (1051), relieving elements of the 2d Armd Div. The I & R Platoon made rcn of rds between ASCHEBERG and AHLEN during night of March 31 - April 1 and found rds and area to be clear of enemy. The 2d Bn w/Cn Co atchd moved at 0530 for AHLEN and had completed relief of 2d Armd Div elms at 0715. One plat of 1t tks from Co D, 736 Tk Bn were atchd and joined Regt at 0630 and were in turn atchd to 2d Bn. The 83d Cav Rcn Trp was atchd to Regt at 0300 and was atchd to 2d Bn by Regt.

The Regt was prepared to pass through the 2d Armd Div and atk BECKUM (2150). However, 2d Armd Div succeeded in securing the town. At 0738, 1st Bn was ordered to move to BECKUM and relieve 2d Armd Div elms securing the town. 1st Bn closed into BECKUM at 1015.

The 3d Bn and 323d FA Bn were moved to assembly area in woods (165622) between AHLEN and BECKUM, so as to be readily available to assist either 1st or 2d Bns. Regtl Hq and special units moved to AHLEN, closing in at 1100.

Co B, 643d TD Bn (SP) was again atchd, joining Regt at 1300. One platoon TDS atchd by Regt to ea Bn. The 83d Cav Trp was relieved from atchment.

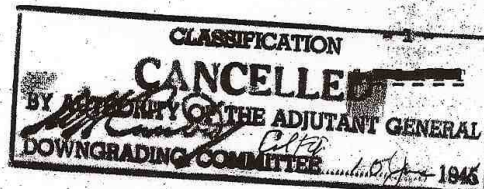
The Regt was again alerted for movement. Mission: To relieve elms of 2d Armd Div along LIPPE R in the vic LIPPSTADT. The 1st and 9th Armies having linked up at that point, it was believed the enemy would attempt to break out in this sector.

The Regtl CT moved at 1745 to assemble at WADERSLOH (353490) preparatory to relieving CC "B" and taking over rd blocks.

The Bns assembled W of WADERSLOH while commanders went forward to contact commanders of 2d Armd Div on river line.

The 3d Bn was given sector on LIPPE R from (293402) E to (410413) with 329th Inf on right and 1st Bn on left. 1st Bn sector from (410413) E along LIPPE R to (480457) where contact with 3d Armd Div (1st Army) was established. The 1st Bn had effected relief at 2400 and the 3d Bn at 020115. The 2d Bn was placed in reserve and assembled vic of LIESEBORN (363463). Because the 1st and 2d Bn front was extended, together with the possibility of a strong enemy counterattack in the Regtl sector, the Regtl Comdr ordered the 2d Bn to be prepared to move on short notice and to rcn routes to sectors of the 1st and 3d Bns to repel counterattacks.

The Regtl CP opened at WADERSLOH (352489) at 1920.



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2 April 1945

At 0915, Regt was ordered to push to the N bank of the LIPPE R, seize and secure any bridges in the sector still intact. This mission given in order to secure the bridges for a possible offensive to the S by our forces, and to forestall any attempt by the enemy to break out to the N.

Both the 3d and 1st Bns pushed to the river without opposition. The 1st Bn seized three bridges (4845), (466437) and (449430), as well as the bridges in LIPPSTADT, all intact. The 3d Bn secured bridge at (351400) that had been blown but still remained passable to foot troops. Fearing strong counterattack, the Engrs were ordered to prepare the bridges for demolition. This was done.

The 3d Bn made contact with the 329th Inf on the right and the 1st Bn established contact with the 3d Armd Div in LIPPSTADT.

G Co, reinforced, was atchd to a task force under command of Lt Col Ritchie and moved out at 1930 to ren pass at (850533) and secure it for future atks by 83d Inf Bn.

Five enemy tks, previously overrun, were destroyed in area to prevent their being employed by infiltrating enemy personnel.

Bns continued to apprehend enemy Pw attempting to escape the trap by crossing the LIPPE R.

An enemy Capt and Lt were killed when they attempted to escape a 1st Bn outpost during the night, when challenged.

The hundreds of displaced personnel presented difficult problems of feeding and housing. The Mil Govt detachment was ordered to set up Mil Govt in LIPPSTADT, establish order and get the estimated 5,000 DPs under control and safeguard food warehouses.

Co D, 736th Tk Bn, relieved from attachment.

3 April 1945

The mission of the Regt remained essentially the same: protect the right flank of the Div and Corps while the remainder of the Div advanced to the E. The Regt was ordered to relieve elements of the 329th Inf E of the 23-grid line. L Co, reserve Co, of the 3d Bn, was ordered to effect relief. Relief was completed at 1600.

The sector continued quiet with little enemy activity S of the LIPPE R.

Co B, 643d TD Bn (2P), was relieved from attachment.

4 April 1945

L Co was relieved in its sector by the Ren Trp of the 95th Inf Div at 032335, and assembled in its former area at 327430.

The 1st Bn established contact with the elms of 8th Armd Div in LIPPSTADT (4242) at 0030. The 1st Bn at that time was covered by elms of the 8th Armd Div atkg W, S of the LIPPE R. Because G2 rpts indicated that the 116th Pz Gr Div and one enemy inf div intended to atk N across the LIPPE R, the Regtl Comdr ordered the 1st Bn to assemble in rear of the 3d Bn whose sector extended about 15 kms along the N bank of the LIPPE R and was therefore lightly held. This was to deepen our position defensively.

The 1st Bn had completed withdrawal and had assembled vic of GR (358480) at 0555, behind the 3d Bn.

During the morning hours the Regt was engaged in perfecting the defense of the river line and at the same time preparing to move and join the Div in vic of DELBRUCK (5752).

- 2 -

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At 1100, the Regt was notified by Div that it would maintain defense along the LIPPE R until further notice and would not move. One platoon of Regtl AT guns was attached to 3d Bn. More rd blocks were established and rcn was conducted by 1st and 2d Bns to occupy a Regtl Reserve Line in case of enemy c/atk. The sector remained quiet throughout the period.

The I & R Plat maintained motor patrols beginning at 1200 to the S of LIPPSTADT along LIPPE R to the left flank of Regt.

The 3d Bn sent patrols across LIPPE R in sector.

The 1st Bn was ordered to send one Co back into LIPPSTADT to control displaced persons who were getting out of control. LIPPSTADT was made a collecting point for DP's; Regtl Cdmr ordered that all DP's in Regtl sector be sent there. Mil Govt was arranging for feeding and housing.

5 April 1945

The sector remained quiet with no contact with enemy forces. The Corps Cdmr informed Regtl Cdmr that the Regt would remain in this sector from 24 to 48 hours until the situation to the S of the LIPPE R cleared up; still danger of strong enemy c/atk from that sector. The Regt passed to Corps control at 1330.

In order to strengthen our defense along the river line, the 1st Bn was given the left of the sector from 351405 E to CAPPEL (393430). The sector was occupied by A Co, reinforced. B and C Cos remained in Bn reserve. The 3d Bn occupied its sector from 351405 W to HERZFELD (279404), with I Co, reinforced. K and L Cos remained in Bn reserve. D Co remained in LIPPSTADT guarding captured warehouses and factories and maintaining order. Displaced persons barriers were established and a camp established to house them. Regtl Surgeon supervised the medical treatment and inmates of the camp were dusted with DDT Powder. Serv Co engaged in trucking personnel to the camp and hauling food and water to them.

I & R Plat patrolled along W bdry of the Regt.

Plat Y, 453d AAA Bn, released from attachment.

6 April 1945

No change.

7 April 1945

The threat of c/atk by the enemy S of the LIPPE R having been relieved by the advance of the 8th Arm Div to the W and the 95th Inf Div to the S, which covered the Regt, the Regt was relieved of its defensive mission along the N bank of the LIPPE R. At 1200, the Regt reverted to control of the 83d Inf Div. At 1335, Regt crossed IP at CAPPEL (395429) to move to assembly area E of WESER R vic of HEVEN (G2180). GT had closed in at 2030. A temporary CP was established in HALLE (255785) but was later moved to ESCHERSHAUSEN (314714).

G Co reverted to Regtl control at 2300.

C Co, 736 Tn Bn, attached to Regt upon Regts arrival in assembly area.

8 April 1945

The Regt was initially given mission of attacking E in right zone of Div and securing bridgehead on E bank of the LEINE R in sector, follow closely behind the 113th Cav, pass through and eliminate resistance the Cav was unable to overcome.

The 331st Inf on the W bank of the WESER R was held up by stubborn resistance from the vic of HOKTER (1455) and HOLZMINDEN (1860) and therefore the Regt was ordered to atk and seize HOLZMINDEN and relieve pressure on the 331st Inf and allow it to advance.

- 3 -

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The Regtl Comdr therefore assigned the mission of securing HOLZMINDEN to the 2d Bn which was in the best position to launch the atk. The 1st Bn, reserve Bn in former plan, was given the left sector and the 3d Bn was given the right Regtl sector, atkg in original direction to E.

All three Bns moved from assembly areas in the early hours of the 8th. The 1st and 2d Bns met stubborn resistance while the 3d Bn moved rapidly in zone against light resistance. The 2d Bn was held up by enemy strong pt at 280680. F Co contained it while E and G Cos advanced and took strong pt of NEGENBORN (263673). The strong pt holding up F Co was reduced by bombing mission in the afternoon. In the meantime, the 1st Bn had taken STADTOLDENDORF (3066) after having knocked out two Mark IV tks, one by bazooka fire and one by 57mm AT gun. The 1st Bn had secured the city by 1120 and the Cav moved to the SE to establish blocks on the right of 1st Bn to protect their flank as they swung to the E. Progress of the Cav was slow and delayed the 1st Bn. The Regtl Comdr ordered one Co of 1st Bn held in STADTOLDENDORF to be committed only on his order. Reason: A force to be used to aid either 1st or 2d Bns should the situation warrant. Request for TD's was made because of enemy tks in zone but initially refused because they were all employed elsewhere.

While the 3d Bn continued to advance rapidly to the E, the 2d Bn was meeting stubborn resistance in a pass between two high wooded hills vic of 250664. Dug-in inf using Panzerfausts and supported by MG's made progress slow. The pocket was finally eliminated by flanking movement with tks and inf. The 331st Inf, in the meantime, had crossed the WESER R at POLLE and started atkg S to reduce resistance in HOLZMINDEN, therefore the 25 N-S grid line was established as a bdry beyond which 330th would not advance. The 2d Bn after taking GOLMBACH (S2468) that a captured enemy order indicated was a strong point, established blocks to the E awaiting contact with 331st Inf.

The advance of the 3d Bn having met only light resistance, the Regtl Comdr ordered I Co to continue in 3d Bn zone and secure bridgehead over LEINE R at GREENE (521645) and L and K Cos were directed to seize pass through hills at 466714 and cross LEINE R on a bridge in the zone of 329th Inf and secure the left part of the Regtl objective. By 1900, I Co had secured the bridge at GREENE intact after overcoming light resistance W of the town that had held up the Cav. L and K Cos secured the pass (466714) and at 1900, L Co had occupied DANKELSHHEIM and was on the Regtl Objective. Twelve 105mm Howitzers and thirty-two 6-inch artillery pieces were captured intact by K and L Cos. A Co occupied WANGELNSTEDT (348653) and B Co LUTHORST (370629). C Co (- 1 plat), 643d TD Bn (SP), atchd and joined at 1900. One platoon immediately atchd to 1st Bn.

9 April 1945

The operation on the 9th consisted mainly of bringing the Regt forward to secure and consolidate Regtl Objective. The 2d Bn made contact with 331st Inf at 0200 and at 1020, the 2d Bn was relieved by the 331st Inf and began moving forward to take up positions at GREENE, guarding bridges over LEINE R, and protecting right flank of Corps.

The 1st Bn advanced against light resistance. In order to speed the movement of the 1st Bn, artillery trucks were used to move the rear troops forward.

At the close of the period the 2d Bn had relieved 3d Bn elms protecting bridges. The Regt held line generally 542720-605655-540628 with 3d Bn on the left and 1st Bn on the right. B Co continued on behind Cav and by 2000 together with one troop of Cav had occupied SEESSEN (6768), rcn to E and SE and established rd blocks.

Regtl CP opened in NAENSEN (486670) at 1550.

Total Pw taken 1 thru 9 April: 1249 (This figure does not include those taken in overrun Army hospitals).

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The mission of all three Bns remained the same. The 1st Bn pushed steadily ahead throughout the day against moderate resistance but was slowed down by wooded terrain and steep hills that favored the defense and made maneuver difficult and time-consuming. The advance was characterized by fighting for, and removing rd blocks. WILDEMAN (87561) was cleared by A and C Cos at 1400 and B Co had secured HOHNENKEL (795655) by 1900.

The 3d Bn established blocks S of LANGELSHEIM and the 801st TD Bn established rd blocks vic of WILDEMAN. Thus the sector of the Regt W of the 78 grid line had been cleared of all organized resistance. Small groups still held out in the mts but the Regt had neither the time nor the troops to hunt down these isolated groups of the enemy.

The 2d Bn began its atk with G Co pushing S from OKER (890700) and E Co atkg S on rd from BAD HARZBURG (945670). The resistance in this sector was considerably stiffer and the progress of both E and G Co was slow. Both E and G Cos advanced along ridges to flank rds, enemy fire from the flanks made rds untenable.

F Co who had been held in reserve in OKER was committed early in the afternoon to follow G Co and mop up along the route taken by G Co and clear rd blocks to enable vehicles to get forward. At 1900, F Co was involved in a s/a fight with elms that had infiltrated behind G Co. G Co was at 885670 receiving fire from front and flanks. E Co was rptd by the Bn Comdr to be in difficulty at 942657 just short of RJ at 937653; they were getting fire from front and flanks and enemy groups were working around to the rear. He had ordered one platoon of F Co mounted on TDs to come to the assistance of E Co. The Regtl Comdr ordered L Co atchd to 2d Bn and to move from WOLFSHAGEN (777713) to OKER to assist 2d Bn if the situation became more critical. L Co was used to block to W and S of OKER but was not otherwise employed.

I Co was moved to GOSLAR where it maintained blocks and patrolled to S. K Co was moved to ILSENBERG (026673) where it relieved TF Biddle and blocked to the S.

Kms of the 116th Pz Div were identified by the 1st Bn, two half-tracks and one Mark IV tk were destroyed in the 1st Bn sector. Hitler Jugend were encountered by all three Bns.

Regtl CP closed in SEESSEN (686685). Opened in GOSLAR at 1300.

Co G, 643d TD Bn (SP) and C trp, 113th Cav Sqdn released from attachment.

12 April 1945

A and C Cos were engaged throughout the night 11-12 April with enemy vic of RJ (803641). B Co who had taken BOCKWEISE (791643) joined A and C Cos vic of (800640). The 1st Bn began atk to clear rd from RJ (805640) to meet I Co who was securing rd blocks on southern outskirts of GOSLAR (840697). B Co led the atk, followed in column by A and C Cos. Progress was slow initially. Dug-in inf was encountered at 804643, and after that strong pt was reduced progress was fairly rapid. At 1610, BCo made contact with I Co outpost at outskirts of GOSLAR (842698). The 1st Bn was ordered to assemble in same vic.

The 2d Bn began mission of clearing the area roughly S along 89 grid line to the 66 grid line then E to the 95 grid line then N to BAD HARZBURG. E Company maintained rd blocks (940657) with two plats and one sec of tks while a combat patrol of one plat cleared the area to the E and N. F and G Cos swept E from present positions clearing woods and mts. At 1900, G Co had linked up with F Co at 910678. G Co remained at this point, establishing blocks and outposts, while F Co continued to clear woods N towards BAD HARZBURG. L Co took over rd blocks established at 885697 when G Co moved to the E.

I Co maintained rd blocks in GOSLAR until 1800, when I Co was relieved by B Co. I Co moved at 1830 to WERNIGERODE (1064) to relieve 113th Cav on rd blocks in that city. K Co maintained rd blocks in ILSENBERG (0267) and ALTENRODE (0655).

A Co / 1 plat of tks was sent to VECKENSTEDT at close of period, on order of Div, to be available to assist TF Biddle in repelling an expected c/atk on the S flank of the Div, E of the Regtl sector.

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PHASE II - OPERATIONS IN HARZ MOUNTAINS

The operation of Regt from 10 April - 20 April 1945 consisted of clearing the enemy from the HARZ MOUNTAINS in the zone of the 83d Inf Div.

The HARZ MOUNTAINS are a heavily wooded range rising out of the N German plain. The rise of the mts is abrupt. In 12 kms, the elevation rises from 200 meters on the plain to 1142 meters on the highest peak. All but highest peaks are covered with a dense growth of trees principally of the evergreen variety. The rd net through the mts is excellent but due to the growth of trees along the rds, and the great number of bridges over small streams the rds were easy to block. Cross country travel by vehicle, either tracked or wheeled was impossible.

The plan set up for this operation was for 1st Bn to move from W to E through the mts while the two remaining Bns following in zone of the 329th Inf on the left (N), which was open and comparatively flat. These Bns would then atk S, block and patrol and thus a small segment at a time would be cleared. The 801st TD Bn (T) (-) was to follow closely the lead elms and establish blocks to the S and E on main rds after being cleared by inf, and prevent enemy from re-entering cleared areas or using rds for vehicles and thus release inf to move E to clear another sector. To assist the Regt in this operation, the 801st TD Bn (T) (- C Co), C Trp 113th Cav Sq, C Co 643d TD Bn (SP), and Co B plus 1 plat Co D and 2d AG Plat 736th Tk Bn were atchd. Co B, 308th Engr Bn, in direct support.

10 April 1945

The plan of atk for 10 April was for the 2d Bn to relieve B Co in SEESSEN. B Co would then atk E towards LAUTENTHAL (7566); A and C Cos to seize MUNCHEHOF (6864), then atk E through mts and take WILDEMANN; the 3d Bn to move in the zone of the 329th Inf to LANGELSHEIM, from there to atk S.

S2 and G2 information indicated strong enemy forces were moving E on our R flank. The 2d Bn was therefore ordered to remain in the vic of GREENE and KREIENSEN (538635), and protect bridge at 535643 and block to the S.

The 3d Bn was moved to SEESSEN to relieve B Co. B Co moved out at 1300 to follow close behind a plat of C Trp, 113th Cav. B Co moved slowly through the woods against Panzerfaust, A/W and S/A fire. At 1700, B Co had taken a rd block at 716672 and foot elms pushed on to 725 674 while Regtl Mine Plat began blowing block to allow Cav vehicles through.

A and C Cos moved up to MUNCHEHOF (6864) behind the Cav but came under MG fire W of the town. A Co atkd town but met hvy resistance from inf supported by four tks. C Co was sent to flank town from N and cut off tks but ran into fire from HERRHAUSEN (652661). C Co cleared the town at 1600, advanced E to woods then S to join A Co.

In the meantime, the 2d Bn (- F Co) had been moved to reserve positions vic HERRHAUSEN (6264) and ILDEHAUSEN (652642). F Co remained behind protecting bridge. Movement of the 2d Bn (- F Co) was screened by I & R Plat who had previously scouted ILDEHAUSEN and engaged in a firefight with a small group of enemy tps. Later elms of the 801st TD Bn relieved F Co and F Co was moved to SEESSEN where it relieved I Co on rd blocks and guard on captured warehouses, trains and hospitals. The 3d Bn moved to LANGELSHEIM (7974) and at 2000 began atk S on the two main rds S of LANGELSHEIM. I Co had occupied WOLFSHAGEN (6971) at 2130. K Co established blocks S of LANGELSHEIM and sent patrol to contact B Co atkg LAUTENTHAL from the E.

B Co continued atk throughout night to take LAUTENTHAL.

Regtl CP opened in GANDERSHEIM (577662) at 1030. Closed at 1830 and opened at SEESSEN at 1830.

11 April 1945

The 2d Bn was ordered to move to assembly area vic of OKER (8870) and from there atk S. G Co was given mission of atkg S from OKER and F Co to atk S from BAD HARZBURG (945670). Regtl Hq Co took over the task of guarding installations in SEESSEN and the 801st TD Bn established blocks to the N, E, NE and SE of the town. F Co joined the 2d Bn in OKER.

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The 801st TD Bn (T) continued to establish and man rd blocks behind the advance of the three Bns on key rds and junctions. PsW were taken and casualties inflicted on enemy by 801st TD Bn as small groups attempted to pass through blocks to the N and W.

The advance of the Bns was opposed by miscellaneous units, principal resistance came from fanatical groups of Hitler Jugend. The enemy employed rd blocks of fallen trees extensively to impede our advance.

At the close of the period the sector W of the 85 grid line had been cleared and blocked, and the sector N of the 67 grid line to the 95 grid line had been swept and blocked.

13 April 1945

All three Bns were engaged in blocking and sweeping areas along Northern edge of mts. The only resistance of any extent was encountered in the sectors of E and I Cos. E Co repulsed three small c/ats at rd blocks vic 937651. Several enemy were killed after which bulk of atkg force surrendered. Arty fire was received, for the first time since RHINE crossing, in E Co sector.

I Co was atkd from flank by small on group armed with machine pistols and panzerfausts. Two jeeps were lost in the engagement.

I Co was released from attachment to 2d Bn and moved to WERNIGERODE (1063), rejoining 3d Bn.

As a result of the days operation, the area N of a line between 825686-957655 was cleared of enemy trps and blocks were established to prevent enemy from reoccupying the ground.

14 April 1945

The Regtl Comdr called Bn Comdrs to meeting at the Regtl GP at 2300 on 13 April to issue order for completion of mission of clearing HARZ MTS from W to E in XIX Corps zone.

The plan: The 2d Bn to advance S from rd blocks vic of OKER then E along E-W rds vic 880626 and take objective along N-S line, 973628-973608, establish blocks on right flank, and act as contact pt with 1st Inf Div. The 1st Bn advance S from blocks S of BAD HARZBURG then E to take objective on line 976647-972628. The 3d Bn to atk S from blocks at ILSENBURG (025670) and secure E-W line (977655-021637) and at the same time maintain blocks to S of ALTENRODE (066657) and WERNIGERODE (1064).

Reasons for plan:

- (1) The 2d Bn, by moving E along S bdry of Corps, could establish and maintain contact with 1st Inf Div who was coming up to our right.
- (2) By this plan all of the zone to the S bdry could be cleared and at the same time the enemy would be compressed into a smaller area and thus the task of cleaning them out would be less difficult.
- (3) The E-W rd net in this area was considerably better allowing advance to the E, where before only trails to the S existed.

A Co rejoined the 1st Bn at 0715 and relieved E Co on rd blocks at 038655. E Co joined 2d Bn at OKER (890704). B Co with one plat of tks, remained at SCHLWECKE (925705) in Regtl Reserve.

All three Bns began process of sweeping to S in zone. 1st and 2d Bns encountered hvy s/a fire and very accurate sniper fire. Rd blocks of fallen trees extending every few feet over a stretch of rd for 200 yds were removed by the engineers supporting the 2d Bn. All advances were made with strong patrols covering each flank, small groups of enemy attempted to circle our leading elms and atk from the flanks. All bridges in zone of advance had been destroyed.

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At the close of the period, K Co was on 3d Bn objective while I and L Cos maintained blocks to the E. The 2d and 1st Bns were on line (879632-921629), however, the area between the 1st and 2d Bns had not been completely cleared.

The 801st TD Bn (T) continued to follow closely behind Bns establishing blocks.

Regtl CP opened in BAD HARZBURG (947683) at 1000.

15 April 1945

Progress during the day was rapid, considering the terrain, the opposition was generally much lighter. At 1100, A and G Cos made contact with E Co, 26th Inf, 1st Inf Div at RJ (924609) and the 2d Bn contacted elms of the 26th Inf at 874640 at 1340.

The 2d Bn swung to the E at RJ (874640) sending a strong patrol to the SW where the 26th Inf was contacted. At 1900, the 2d Bn had reached 951625.

B Co was returned to Bn control at 1330. The 1st Bn established rd blocks at 924610 and sent patrols to contact the 2d Bn coming up from the NW. The 1st Bn then swept N to 938653 then E. At nightfall, the 1st Bn forward elms were at 980624.

The 2d Bn moved rapidly to the SE and at nightfall leading elms were at 950625.

The 3d Bn maintained rd blocks and continued to clear area between strong pts with combat patrols.

With the 1st and 2d Bns generally abreast, the 3d Bn blocking all exits to the NE, and the 1st Inf Div abreast on our right, the pocket was slowly being compressed with little chance of organized trps escaping the trap in our sector.

16 April 1945

The 1st and 2d Bns renewed atk to the E at 0630. Both Bns made good progress during morning against light resistance. Small pockets were effective in slowing down advance at times because of difficulty of maneuver.

Orders were received at 1200 that one reinforced Bn would be atchd to the 329th Inf as soon as it could be made available. The Regtl Comdr had planned his atk so that the 2d Bn would be pinched out by the 1st Bn when the 2d Bn had taken its objective generally along the 98 N-S grid line. He had estimated that the 2d Bn would take this objective on the following day. With the taking of the objective along the 98 N-S grid line the 1st Bn would continue on to the E; the 2d Bn would be assembled vic of ILSENBURG (0267) where it was to be reorganized and rested preparatory to being employed in the final phase of the operation against BLANKENBURG (2159).

The sudden demand for one Bn upset this plan. The 2d could not be withdrawn without leaving a wide open right(S) flank. The 2d Bn was therefore ordered to side slip to the N and assume the sector of the 1st Bn. The 1st Bn was ordered to assemble vic of ILSENBURG. Some delay was caused because B Co was engaged in a fire fight vic 000615 and had to break contact.

The 1st Bn (/ 1 plat Co B, 736 Tk Bn and Co B, 308 Engr(-1 plat) had assembled at 1645 and were awaiting transportation to arrive from Div.

The 2d Bn continued to make good progress but constantly encountered small groups of enemy riflemen who fought stubborn delaying action. At one point the enemy had begun to construct a rd block in rear of ground cleared by the 1st Bn before the 2d Bn was able to put forces in to take over 1st Bn positions. The terrain, plus our limited forces, made it possible for small enemy groups to infiltrate behind our lines and harass our supply lines.

The 3d Bn maintained positions along the left (N) flank and continued to patrol between strong pts.

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The 801st TD Bn (T), while putting in a rd block at RJ (964600), was atkd. Eight enemy were killed and eighteen PSW taken. The Mine Plat of AT Co was sent to reinforce this block.

At close of period, E Cos leading elms were at 000616 with F Co to right rear and G Co to the left rear.

Regtl CP displaced to ILSBURG (0367).

17 April 1945

Steady progress was made throughout the day by 2d and 3d Bns. Opposition continued to be small groups of enemy inf supported by a/w defending rd blocks and defiles. The enemy continued to infiltrate in small groups to the rear of our lines attempting to escape or ambush small parties on our supply and communication lines.

The 2d Bn swept area for 3500 m clearing the general area included in grid squares 0060-0062 then E to include 0360-030615. At 1140, 15 rds of 105mm arty fell in E Cos zone. The 2d Bn continued to receive arty, over 200 rds falling in their area, throughout the day. The guns were firing from 1st Inf Div zone, on our right. 1st Inf Div arty fired c/btry fire for us. E Co remained at contact pt (013600), waiting for elms of 1st Inf Div to establish contact while F and G Cos pushed to the E. At 2030, E Cos kitchen truck was ambushed on rd 500 yds to NE of their position. The vehicles were recovered.

K Co assembled vic of RJ (023634) after outposts and blocks had been uncovered by the 2d Bn. L Co pushed to the SE followed by K Co. I Co maintained blocks to the E.

K Co maintained contact with the 2d Bn initially by patrol. At 1930, K Co was abreast of F Co at 038614 and L Co was at 045615.

The rd block (965600) of A Co, 801st TD Bn (T), supported by AT Co Mine Plat, continued to be atkd by small enemy groups. This block was contacted by 1st Inf Div elms at 1813.

18 April 1945

The operation on the 18th saw the 3d Bn pushing to the SE and the 2d Bn to the E. The atk followed the same general pattern. Rd blocks and strong pts were established at key pts and the areas between swept with strong combat patrols. As our advance continued to the E the sector became narrower and once more the Regtl Comdr made plans to relieve the 2d Bn to reorganize and rest in preparation for atk on BLANKENBURG (2259), the last remaining key pt in our sector of the HARTZ MTS.

The 801st TD Bn (T) was ordered to relieve the 2d Bn on its blocks and one Co of 2d Bn was ordered to relieve the 3d Bn on blocks and contact point with 1st Inf Div (070589) when established and also to establish block at RJ (052586) after which the 2d Bn (-1 Co) would assemble vic of WERNIGERODE while the 3d Bn pushed to the E.

Both Bns atkd to carry out above plan. Resistance appeared to be better organized. An enemy demolition squad supported by inf established rd blocks and blew bridges just ahead of the 2d Bns advance throughout the day.

Elms of the 801st TD Bn (T) relieved E Co at blocks (094616) and (013598). E Co advanced to GR (038604) and established defense for the night. F and G Cos, at nightfall, were on line (046595-046593) and were engaged with two SP guns.

The 3d Bn encountered light resistance. K Co advanced cross country from 047617 to 060609 then S along rds to 050600 and 066604. L Co, at close of period, was at 087601.

19 April 1945

The atk continued according to plan. K Co established blocks at 056596 and 071583 during the afternoon and G Co relieved K Co on blocks at 1830. L Co advanced

- 9 -

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to the SE to N edge of lake (100590) where they became involved in fairly hvy s/a fight with enemy inf and vehicles. A half-track and one truck were destroyed and hvy casualties inflicted on enemy forces; three half-tracks, one truck and four 20mm AA Guns were captured. L Co held positions at that point, maintaining strong combat patrols to S and E throughout the afternoon. K Co was ordered by Bn Comdr to swing S and E and come up along the W side of the lake, cut the only open rd leading away from the lake and thus pin the strong enemy forces in the sector between L on the N, K on the S and the lake to the E.

K Co moved rapidly and by 2050 had made contact with the rear of the enemy forces (089580) that had been engaged by L Co. Finding themselves surrounded, the enemy showed little inclination to fight. The remainder of night, K and L Cos spent round up prisoners. 3d Bn took more than 500 PsW during the day and night and captured about 60 vehicles of all types.

I Co pushed steadily to the E throughout the day and at the close of the period had taken key RJ at 11236110.

The 2d Bn (-G Co) moved to assembly area vic 110633, closing at 1840.

In the afternoon word was received at Regtl Hq indicating the Regt would be relieved on the following day by the 8th Armd Div. At 1930, the order was received for the relief of the Regt by GCA, 8th Armd Div. Bn Comdrs met with Comdrs at 2200 to plan the relief.

During the Regts operations in the HAZ MTS, an area was cleared extending 47 kms in length, 15 kms through two-thirds of the way, then narrowing to 5 kms at the Eastern end. In the ten-day period, 2,516 PsW (not including hospital patients) from many units, were taken. Included in these units were the 26 VG Div, 116th Pz Div, the 1053 and 1054 Regts of Potsdam Div, Hitler Jugend organizations, Volkstrum, training units and Werewolves.

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PHASE III - DEFENSE OF ELBE RIVER BRIDGEHEAD

20 April 1945

The Regt (-1st Bn) was completely relieved by GCA, 8th Armd Div, by 1200. The 801st TD Bn (T), was released from attachment upon its relief by elms of GCA. By 1300, the 2d and 3d Bns were assembled via WERNIGERODE and trucks for motor move to Div bridgehead had arrived. Regt (-1st Bn) crossed IP at WERNIGERODE at 1400 and had closed into assembly areas in rear of the 320th Inf (35th Inf Div) E of the ELBE R by 1915. Bn and Co Comdrs made con and contacted Comdrs of 320th Inf preparatory to relieving 320th Inf at first light, 21 April 1945.

Regtl CP opened at 886824, vicinity of WALTERNIENBURG, Germany, at 1545.

21 April 1945

Relief of the 320th Inf was begun at first light and the Regt (-1st Bn) assumed responsibility for the sector at 1200. The relief was made without reaction from the enemy and enemy activity remained light throughout the period.

2d Bn sector: MLR extended from ELBE (858860) E to bdry with 3d Bn (882871).

3d Bn sector: MLR extended NE from 882871 to GEHRDEN (899874) then SE to 919857 where contact with the 329th Inf was established.

The 1st Bn remained under Div control.

Remainder of the day was spent in reorganizing and digging in.

Co B, 643d TD Bn, was attached.

22 - 30 April 1945

The sector remained generally quiet throughout this period. Patrols were sent nightly to N and NE. No indication of enemy reinforcements was discovered, in fact, it appeared the enemy was withdrawing forces from their positions to our front. We continued to improve our defenses and additional AT and AP mines and tactical wire was laid.

On the nite of 26 April, K Co was contacted by a Captain of the German Army sent to arrange details for the surrender of a Regiment. The Captain accomplished his mission with the result CT JANUMS (15 Latvian SS Div) commanded by Col Janums, with a strength of 41 officers and 856 EM were marched to our PW cage. This Regt had marched from the vic of BERLIN to surrender to American forces.

The 1st Bn (-B Co) reverted to Regtl control on 28 April at 1200. B Co was atchd to TF Hawkins and remained under Div control. The 1st Bn (-B Co) occupied positions vic of GUTTERGLUCK (924857) at 2000, vacated by the 3d Bn 329th Inf. The 1st Bn (-B Co) was relieved by 3d Bn 329th Inf on 29 April and reverted to Regtl Reserve.

The Regt was assigned to a zone of responsibility in the Div rear area for purpose of collecting, feeding and housing displaced personnel as well as maintaining order.

On 28 April, Col Montague, Regtl S4 and Regtl S1 set up headquarters in STASSFURT (6568) for this purpose. On 30 April, the 1st Bn (-B, C and D Cos) moved to STASSFURT to assist in administration and policing the area.

B Co remained atchd to TF Hawkins; C Co with 1 plat tks atchd, in Regtl Reserve. One MG Plat, D Co, was atchd to 3d Bn and D Co (-1 plat) was atchd to the 2d Bn.

Co B (-1 Plat), 736 Tk Bn, released from attachment to Regt.

1372 PsW were taken during period 20 - 30 April 1945.



II

ROSTER OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

S-1

S-2

S-3

S-4

REGIMENTAL SURGEON

FIRST BN COMDR

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

S-1

S-2

S-3

S-4

BN SURGEON

CO COMDR, CO A

CO COMDR, CO B

CO COMDR, CO C

CO COMDR, CO D

SECOND BN COMDR

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

S-1

S-2

S-3

S-4

BN SURGEON

CO COMDR, CO E

CO COMDR, CO F

CO COMDR, CO G

CO COMDR, CO H

Robert T. Foster, Colonel	0-11258
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Glaude L. Bowen Jr., Lt Col	0-19244
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
William W. Allen III, Capt	0-1286755
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Bedford F. Foster, Major	0-275422
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Frederick B. Cook, Major	0-291557
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Robert W. Breen, Major	0-297629
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Alfred I. Myerson, Major	0-378894
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Norman A. Campbell, Lt Col	0-321022
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Eugene P. Fritts Jr., Capt	0-1286992
1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45	
Lewis L. Marks, Capt	0-310838
1 Apr to 26 Apr 45	
Alexander J. Gordon, 1st Lt	0-1300638
26 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Needham V. Alford, 1st Lt	0-1999871
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Stanley NMI Howarth, Capt	0-1287010
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Joseph E. Goffield, 1st Lt	0-1325377
1 Apr to 26 Apr 45	
Morris NMI Melnikoff, 1st Lt	0-1324041
26 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Eugene T. Donovan, Capt	0-1714813
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Charles R. Smith, Capt	0-341917
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Joseph A. DeSantis, 1st Lt	0-1316043
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Byron G. Gifford, Capt	0-322680
1 Apr to 26 Apr 45	
Paul E. Garthwaite, 1st Lt	0-1308627
26 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Frederick M. Barrett, Capt	0-416672
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
John A. Norris Jr., Lt Col	0-21299
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Edward G. Allen, Major	0-342925
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Robert W. Thurmond, Capt	0-1305673
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Daniel M. O'Brein, 1st Lt	0-1328070
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Charles W. Schmitt Jr., Capt	0-1299634
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Howard E. Spangler, 1st Lt	0-390299
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
George C. Blanchard Jr., Capt	0-441869
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Robert G. Packer, Capt	0-523172
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Raymond C. Ruda, 1st Lt	0-1301545
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
John D. Huy, Capt	0-1048834
1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
Jack R. Masters, Capt	0-337707
1 Apr to 7 Apr 45	
William L. Bennett, 1st Lt	0-1286772
8 Apr to 30 Apr 45	



III

ATTACHMENTS



THIRD BN COMDR	George M. Shuster, Lt Col	0-212651
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Robert W. Stewart, Major	0-1283160
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
S-1	Arthur B. Calhoun Jr., Capt	0-402305
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
S-2	Joseph A. W. St Onge, 1st Lt	0-1287083
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
S-3	Ben D. Cunningham, Capt	0-1286798
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
S-4	Edwin J. Sullivan, 1st Lt	0-1297116
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
BN SURGEON	Milton NMI Brotman, Capt	0-436711
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
CO COMDR, CO I	Reed B. Kimmel, 1st Lt	0-402023
	1 Apr to 26 Apr 45	
	Arthur H. Rasper Jr., Capt	0-26121
	27 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
CO COMDR, CO II	Landus J. Smith, Capt	0-284841
	1 Apr 45	
	George A. Browne, 1st Lt	0-1308593
	2 Apr to 17 Apr 45	
	Warren W. Witt, 1st Lt	0-527882
	18 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
CO COMDR, CO L	Edward K. Gebert, Capt	0-528940
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
CO COMDR, CO M	Andrew W. McKenna, Capt	0-421008
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
COMDR, HQ & HQ CO	Ralph H. Cook, Capt	0-322027
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
COMDR, SV CO	Cecil R. Patrick, Capt	0-1287054
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
COMDR, AT CO	Robert L. Yust, Capt	0-403653
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	
COMDR, ON CO	Lovell E. Brown Jr., Capt	0-404375
	1 Apr to 30 Apr 45	

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ATTACHMENTS

<u>Attached to</u> <u>330th Inf</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Attached</u>	<u>Date released</u> <u>from Attachment</u>
Plat Y, 453d AAA Bn	Attached beginning of period.	5 April 1945
1 Plat, Co D, 736th Tk Bn	1 April 1945	2 April 1945
83d Cav Recon Troop	1 April 1945	1 April 1945
Co B, 643d TD Bn (SP)	1 April 1945	3 April 1945
Co C, 736th Tk Bn	7 April 1945	30 April 1945
Co C, 643d TD Bn (SP)	8 April 1945	11 April 1945
801st TD Bn (- C Co) (T)	9 April 1945	20 April 1945
G Trp, 113th Cav Sq	10 April 1945	11 April 1945
1 Plat, Co D, 736th Tk Bn	10 April 1945	20 April 1945
2d AG Plat, 736th Tk Bn	10 April 1945	
Co B, 643d TD Bn (SP)	21 April 1945	
1 Plat Co B, 736th Tk Bn	30 April 1945	

The Regt passed to XIX Corps control 5 April 1945 and reverted to 83d Inf Div 7 April, passed to XIX Corps control again on 13 April and reverted to Div on 20 April. The 1st Bn was released to Div control 16 April and 1st Bn (- B Co) returned to Regtl control 28 April. G Co was attached to TF Biddle 2 April and released to Regt 7 April.

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IV

BATTLE LESSONS

The following are the lessons learned from the battle of the Bulge. These lessons were learned from the experience of the American and British forces who fought the battle. The lessons are as follows:

1. The importance of intelligence gathering and analysis.
2. The importance of communication and coordination between units.
3. The importance of maintaining a strong defensive position.
4. The importance of having a plan for the defense of the position.
5. The importance of having a reserve force.
6. The importance of having a strong command and control structure.
7. The importance of having a strong morale and esprit de corps.
8. The importance of having a strong sense of purpose and mission.
9. The importance of having a strong sense of responsibility.
10. The importance of having a strong sense of honor and integrity.

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I. BATTLE LESSONS

1. "You cannot expect to find battery positions for a whole battery in the mountains at all times, therefore guns must be strung out along the route of advance thereby avoiding the waste of a lot of valuable time trying to get the battery in one spot." CO, Cn Co, 330th Inf.

2. "At intervals throughout the operation, we found it effective to fire one volley of artillery approximately 500 yards ahead of the point, to flush out small groups of enemy with panzerfausts along the road." CO, 323d FA Bn.

3. "Even though the enemy defended along the road, our best progress was made when we attacked either to the right or left of the road, coming back down to the road periodically." S3, 330th Inf.

4. "We monitor our Artillery Air OP with an SCR 610, through arrangement with our Artillery Battalion Commander. The set at the Air OP is also used at times as a relay. This worked particularly well in the Harz Mountain area where the mountainous and thickly wooded terrain cut the range of our radios considerably. Since our frontage and depth was extended, this enabled us to get radio messages relayed through. Due to the fluid nature of this particular operation, establishing a ground relay station was out of the question." ComO, 330th Inf.

II. COMMENTS ON MOUNTAIN FIGHTING by Battalion Commanders and Staffs.

"Engineers must be aggressive and follow lead elements of the Infantry closely to take out road blocks so that tanks can be brought forward and not have the column strung out way to the rear."

"We generally attack with one company on the road and a company on each side, lead company puts out only flank security, that way the lead company doesn't have to worry about control of flanks and concentrate on what is straight ahead. This plan makes it easy to switch companies, too, because rotation is necessary as they tire fast in this kind of country. We found most of the fighting was done by the point."

"Columns must be carefully made up before going into attack because roads were narrow and it is impossible to turn around and run up and down the columns."

"There is not much you can do at night, plan ahead so last hour can be used to move into position, check security and let men get familiar with terrain and location of men on right and left."

"Artillery targets must be anticipated far in advance when fighting in mountains and woods because when we did run into Jerry we were too close to call for artillery fire. The 60mm and 81mm mortars pay off though and we used them to good advantage throughout the whole operation, keeping them well forward."

"You cannot wait till night to resupply troops and tanks, too much possibility of ambush. The tanks would bring supply trucks forward and gas them while they were waiting for road blocks to be cleared."

"We used AT platoon of battalion and attached regimental platoon to protect our rear and critical road junctions as we moved ahead. With two platoons they would leap frog forward and our rear was always secure."



V

LOSSES IN ACTION



	<u>APRIL BATTLE CASUALTIES</u>					<u>Reinf</u>
	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>& RTD</u>
Hq Co	0	0	0	2	2	14
Sv Co	0	1	0	1	2	3
AT Co	3	1	0	0	4	1
Cn Co	1	2	0	2	5	3
Med Det	0	8	0	3	11	10
Hq Co 1st Bn	0	4	0	5	9	2
Co A	3	16	0	11	30	22
Co B	2	30	0	10	42	22
Co C	4	18	0	12	34	19
Co D	0	3	0	5	8	10
Hq Co 2d Bn	0	0	0	2	2	4
Co E	14	36	0	10	60	23
Co F	4	14	0	12	30	27
Co G	6	16	1	8	31	22
Co H	0	5	1	3	9	11
Hq Co 3d Bn	0	0	0	4	4	4
Co I	0	2	0	9	11	17
Co K	2	3	0	5	10	18
Co L	5	12	0	8	25	7
Co M	0	2	0	2	4	5

A W A R D S

	<u>BRONZE STAR</u>	<u>SILVER STAR</u>
Hq & Hq Co	1	0
Sv Co	0	0
AT Co	0	0
Cn Co	0	0
Med Det	0	1
Hq Co 1st Bn	0	0
Co A	1	0
Co B	0	0
Co C	0	0
Co D	1	0
Hq Co 2d Bn	0	0
Co E	2	0
Co F	0	0
Co G	0	0
Co H	2	0
Hq Co 3d Bn	4	0
Co I	2	0
Co K	0	0
Co L	0	0
Co M	6	0

1271



VI

AWARDS & DECORATIONS