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HEADQUARTERS  
737th Tank Battalion  
APO 436

DUP  
11A

10 May 46

Date

HS

Initials

13 May 45

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Report, After After Action.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
(Through: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division, APO #5, US Army.)

1. General Summary:

During the period 1-8 May 45 the tanks of the battalion supported the 5th Infantry Division in its drive through Germany and into Czechoslovakia. Resistance generally was light during the entire period and the battalion suffered no vehicle losses and only one enlisted man was listed as a battle casualty. Maintenance and repair of equipment was stressed during the entire period.

2. Assignments and Attachments:

a. The battalion remained assigned to the Third Army throughout the period 1-8 May 45 (Troop Assignment No. 9, Hq 12th Army Gp., dated 10 Apr 45) and attached to XII Corps (Troop Assignment No. A-138, Hq TUSA, dated 28 Apr 45) and further attached to 5th Infantry Division (Troop Assignment No. A-47, Hq XII Corps, dated 30 Apr 45.)

b. The units were attached as follows:

- (1) A Co: Attached 11th Infantry Regiment 1 thru 8 May 45.
- (2) B Co: Attached 10th Infantry Regiment 1 thru 8 May 45.
- (3) C Co: Attached 2d Infantry Regiment 1 thru 8 May 45.
- (4) D Co: Attached 2d Infantry Regiment 1 thru 3 May 45 and 7 thru 8 May 45.

3. Operations:

On the first day of the month the battalion continued the road march from the Ruhr to rejoin the XII Corps and 5th Infantry Division. Leaving Schwartzfeld (UL89975) on the 1st day of the month the battalion moved to the vicinity of Unt Grainet (Q339389). Battalion headquarters, Hq, S and D Companies closed Unt Grainet (Q339389), A Company closed Karlsbach (Q292351), B Company closed Freyung (Q260395) and C Company closed Winkelbrunn (XQ290388) on the same date. Maintenance requirements were estimated and work begun to bring all vehicles up to operating condition after the grueling 520-mile road march.

On the second day of the month the battalion, with the exception of B Company continued maintenance. The first platoon of B Company in support of the first battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, the second platoon in support of the second battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment moved from Freyung (Q260395) at 0900 hours in an action to seize and hold ground. Mission accomplished and 1st platoon closed vicinity (Q395357) and the 2d platoon moved to Phillipsreut (Q350465).

The next day Baker Company again was the only unit in action, the balance of the battalion continuing to support respective CTs and affect

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maintenance in position.

The 1st platoon of B Company moved from Richenau (Q395361) to Frauenberg (Q426392) in support of infantry with the mission of clearing woods to the northeast. The mission was accomplished and the platoon returned to Frauenberg at 1400 hours and established a road block prior to reassembling.

The 2d platoon sent two tanks from Phillipseuth (Q350465) at 0800 hours in support of infantry and in conjunction with tank destroyers to Silnice, Czechoslovakia (Q368491) to set up defensive preparations in event of a counterattack.

On the 4th day of the month the 2d platoon of B Company fired on targets of opportunity for the infantry in the vicinity of (Q386451). Resistance was encountered and panzerfaust fire received. One tank was hit by panzerfaust fire but the projectile did not detonate. There were no vehicle casualties but one enlisted man was wounded by machine gun fire.

The balance of the battalion held positions, continued maintenance and prepared to support CTs in the event of enemy entering zone as a result of retrograde action in the face of Soviet forces attacking from the East.

The 5th of May found no tactical action on the part of any unit of the battalion. One platoon of C Company moved to Alt Richenau (Q393360), meeting no opposition. B Company moved CP to Landstreen (Q365482) and tanks remained at Silnice (Q366491). Maintenance duties continued.

On the following day B Company moved into Winterberg (Q399678). The town was captured and many prisoners taken. There was little or no resistance encountered in the action. Two bridges were captured intact, one being prepared for demolition when overrun. The action was aided by the Mayor of the town coming out to meet the tank platoon leader and escorting him through the city pointing out enemy troop concentrations, supply dumps, etc.

C Company, after aiding infantry in crossing Vltava River against very light resistance, moved to Hausna (Q420545), D Company moved to Haldhauser (Q434429) and A Company moved to Herzogseuth (Q324432). All moves were of an administrative nature.

On the 7th of May A Company moved to Ferchenhaid (Q331605). D Company was attached to the 2d Infantry Regiment at 0800 and moved to Velary (Q503531). The 2d platoon moved out to take up positions vicinity (Q515562) in a move to counteract an infiltration of enemy forces into zone. There was no contact with the enemy and the companies continued maintenance duties.

On the 8th of May all companies were relieved from attachments to their respective infantry regiments as of 2400. All units remained in defensive positions awaiting announcement of the termination of hostilities.

#### 4. Results of Operations:

For the second month in succession the activities of the battalion were highlighted by the fact that no vehicle casualties were sustained as a result of enemy action. Only one enlisted man was listed as a battle casualty. Coupled with the operations of all units over the entire period of the European operation, the ultimate result was obtained in the unconditional surrender of the enemy.

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Action Against Enemy Report, After After Action.  
Hq 737th Tank Bn., APO #436, 13 May 1945

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FRED M. KRONCHER, JR.  
Lieut. Col., Inf (Armed)  
Commanding

Incl: 1 - Original Unit Journal.

1 May 45

<u>Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Message</u>
0500	-	-	Bn closed Schwartzefeld (J18997A) 4 Mediums and 1 light tank on road at close.
0900	-	-	Cleared Schwartzefeld.
1000	H-2	G-3 XII Corps	Bn relieved from attachment 5th Inf. Div. and attached XII Corps, Troop Assignment A-138, Hq. TUSA, effective 28 April. Bn attached 5th Inf Div. VOCE XII Corps effective 28 Apr 45.
2150	-	-	Hq, Sv & Dog Companies closed Unt Grainet (Q339389).
2100	H-3	Maint O	Capt Busch estimates 19-20 Medium tanks dropped out on road, 4 lights out, 1 half-track out and 2 Assault Guns (1 Neudorf, 1 S of Neudorf). Capt Busch wanted to know if a guide would be sent out to direct Sgt. Ivie and 10 trucks who were left at Eltmann to the present area. Also wanted guide for maintenance crews and vehicles on road. H-2 will handled in morning.
2200	H-6	CG 5 Div	Operations Instructions 85, H2 5th Inf Div, 30 Apr 45, attaches companies A, B and C as follows effective on arrival in Division Zone. A Co - Attached 11th Inf. B Co - Attached 10th Inf. C Co - Attached 2d Inf.

2 May 1945

0950	Ln O	H-3	Dog attached 2d Infantry.
1030	H-4	H-5	H-5 reported following to H-4: 20 Medium Tanks are in, 15 operational approximately. 25 sets track, 50 bogies, 2 support rollers, 2 volute springs needed for mediums. 13 Light tanks in, 7 operational. Need 17 sets track, 20 bogies and 5 idlers for lights.
1200	H-3	H-A	Obtained permission from CO 11th Inf to get vehicles assembled here (Karlsbach), perform maintenance and to follow their advance closely. Will move approximately 30 to 50 miles in the morning.
1225	H-3	Ln O	4 enemy tanks at (6025), shooting at Dusty. 2d SS Pz Div have elements at (7004). 9th SS Pz Div have elements at (6131). 1st SS Pz Div have elements at (4324). 1st SS not definitely spotted. Enemy troops at (3850).
1200	-	-	Par 3, Tr Asgmt No 110, Hq 12th AG, 26 April 45 reads as follows: *VOCE of 25 Apr 1945, directing the following changes in status of troops, are confirmed and made of record, effective that date:

		<u>Unit</u>	<u>Action</u>
		*** 737th Tank Bn	Reld atchmt First US Army (remains asgd Third US Army).
1345	H-3	H-A	Lt. Giacomozzi here. If nothing further happens all 13 tanks will be in by 1500.
1535	H-3	H-A	Last A Co vehicles in.
1600	H-3	H-C	All but 2 tanks are in. One in vicinity of Cham in mud to sponsors. Bn Maint there. One other about 30 miles back, track broken and tank in bank. Need 7 sets track, 85 steel blocks and 20 rubber blocks, 1 T/2 winch cable, 17 bogies, 1 idler, 1 bogie jack, 1 gudgeon wench, 1 set H/T and a winch cable. Advised S-4. Status: BA-3, B-7, BB-4, BC-2, E-1 and GB-1.
1640	H-3	H-A	Need 8 sets track, 1 belt driver generator, 4 idlers, 13 sprocket cap screws, 2 homolites, 6 bogies, 2 radial engines and 1 exhaust fishtail for tank with straight exhaust. Advised S-4.

2 May 1945

<u>Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Message</u>
1645	H-5	H-B	As of 1130 9 tanks in, 4 on road (5 operational). Need 5 sets track, 10 bogies, 2 support rollers and 2 volute springs. Advised S-4.
1645	H-5	H-D	As of 1130, 13 tanks in (7 operational) 4 on road. Need 17 sets of track, 20 bogies, 5 idlers. 3 more tanks in but none operational.
2000	H-6	C9 XII Corps	Troop Assignment #A-47, Hq XII Corps, 30 Apr 45, is quoted in part as follows: "The following units attached to the XII Corps per Third U.S. Army Troop Assignment #A-138, are further attached to the 5 Infantry Division effective 28 April 1945:

Unit

\*\* 737th Tank Bn \*\*

2400	H-3	G-3	Dusty moving back this way to come on right flank of Dollar so do not move A Co until they contact Col Black and get new location: (Notified A Co). Also pick up 9 new tanks and 12 sets of light tank track at 31 Ordnance in morning. (Advised S-4).
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3 May 45

0945	H-3	H-B	Action of 2 May 45: Co. attached 10th Inf. 1st Platoon supporting 1st Bn., 2d Platoon supporting 2d Bn. 1st Platoon moved from Co. area 0900 to positions (395357) where they held ground. 2d Platoon moved from Co. area 2030 to PHILIPPENREUT (350465) and held ground. Status: A-3, BA-5, BB-1, B-0, C-0, D-0. (BX-2, X-2 on road).
1310	H-3	Trans C	All my vehicles in.
1425	H-3	5 Div Traffic Control	Lt. Smith called and said a bridge will be in by 1445 today in the vicinity of Breitenberg (468293).
2000	H-3	H-B	Today's action: 1st platoon supporting 1st Bn at (425390). Moved from Richenau (395361) to Frauenberg. Supported infantry in clearing woods to NE then returned to Frauenberg establishing a road block and reassembling at 1400. 2d Platoon supporting 2d Bn sent 2 tanks from Philippsreut to Silnice, Czech. (368491) at 0800 to combine with infantry and tank destroyers in the event of a counterattack. Present location of troops. Trains: (261394) 1st Pltn (425390) 2d Pltn: (350465) & (368491) Status of Tanks: A-3, BA-8, B-2, C-0, D-0.

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4 May 1945

<u>Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Message</u>
2000	H-3	H-B	Today's action: 2d platoon fired up targets of opportunity for the infantry at (386451). Bazooka fire received and one tank hit by pangerfaust but it did not detonate. One M wounded by machine gun fire (Cpl Lackey). Location of troops: No change. Tank status: A-2, BA-8, B-0, C-2, D-1.

5 May 1945

0830	H-2	G-4	G-4 wanted to know number, type and condition of new tanks we drew, also status of all equipment. H-2 gave information and also asked about M-24 and ammunition problem. G-4 said it would be taken care of.
0930	H-2	H-C	1 platoon moved early this morning to Alt Reichenau (398360). Balance of Co no change.
1330	H-2	H-5	7 of Dog Companies tanks have new track on, 5 being worked on. Should be in good shape tonight.
1335	H-2	Ln 0	Baker moved up.
1430	H-3	H-B	We are at Landstrafe (365482). Tanks at Silnice (366491). 3d platoon with 1st Bn., 2d platoon with 2d Bn. Status: A-2, BA-8, B-0, C-2, D-1, XX-4.
1440	H-2	H-4	Just returned from ordnance. Brought back 6 tanks: 4 -76 Perds (3 new), 2 - 75 Radials, M4A1. 1 - 76 in Ordnance.
2000	G-4	H-6	Tank Status Report: A-4/11/4/4, B-18/8/2/0, C-4/2/0/0, D-15/0/2/1, H-3/1/0/1, O-2/1/0/0.

6 May 1945

0945	H-3	G-3	Have D Co move up in vicinity of 2d & 10th for probable use with 2d. Avoid using MSt.
1000	H-3	H-C	Entire Company now at Alt Reichenau (398360).
1430	H-3	H-B	Tanks and CP at Winterberg (399678). Supporting 2d Bn, 10th Inf., capturing 1 bridge in Winterberg last night. Bridge captured today was prepared for demolition when taken.
1500	H-3	H-4	One M4A3E6, 76mm from Ordnance to Bn.
1530	H-2	H-3	Able moved to <del>XXXXXX</del> Herzogsreuth (Q324432)
1530	H-3	H-D	Company at Haldhauser (434429). 1 tank remaining at Grainet (4339389) for communication between Co and Bn.
2000	G-4	H-6	Status Report: A-6-11-2-4, B-23-3-2-0, C-4-2-0-0, D-15-0-2-1, H-4-0-0-1, O-1-1-1-0.
2100	H-3	G-3	Dog Co attached 2d Inf Regt as of 070800Z May 45.
2130	H-3	H-C	Company moved to HOUZNA (420545).
2400	H-3	H-D	Have contacted 2d Inf and will move to join 1st Bn at 0700.

7 May 45

<u>Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Message</u>
0800	H-2	Trans O	We received 2400 gallons of gasoline of the 15,000 allotted Division yesterday.
0900	H-6	FUSA	Troop Assignment 43, Bq FUSA, 28 Apr 45, confirms VOCC 18 Apr 45 relieving 737th Tank Bn from attachment FUSA. Remains assigned FUSA.
1000	H-3	Trans O	1 - 6x6 truck received from Ordnance. Will go to Able as gas truck.
1415	H-3	C-3	Division requested following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. No. vehicles deadlined for track.</li><li>2. No. vehicles with track good for less than 100 mi.</li><li>3. No. vehicles with track good for less than 200 mi.</li><li>4. No. vehicles with engine good for less than 100 mi.</li><li>5. No. vehicles with engine good for less than 200 mi.</li><li>6. Type of vehicle and engine.</li></ol>
1545	H-3	H-3	D Company sitting tight in VOIARI (4503531).
2000	H-4	H-4	Status Report: A-6-12-1-4, B-23-4-1-0, C-4-2-0-0, D-15-0-2-1, H-4-0-0-1, O-1-1-1-0
2300	H-6	CG 5 Div	"OO will attend a conference in office of J at 1000 8 May. Officer will be present at 0955, 8 May."

8 May 45

1000	-	-	H-6 attended conference at CGS office.
1500	-	-	Company Commander's meeting. Briefing on coming events.
1800	H-6	CG 5 Div	At 082400B May 45 the following detachments are effective: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 2d Inf: Cos C &amp; D, 737 Tk Bn</li><li>2. 10th Inf: Co B 737 Tk Bn</li><li>3. 11th Inf: Co A 737 Tk Bn</li></ol> Signed CG 5th Inf Div. Time signed 1445B.
2000	H-6	C-4	Status Report: A-6-11-1-5, B-23-4-1-0, C-4-2-0-0, D-15-0-2-L, H-4-0-0-1, O-1-1-1-0.