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402, NNDG 735017, W.G. LEWIS (N.M.), NARS, SEPT 1982*

AFTER-ACTION REPORT

23RD TANK BATTALION

May 1945

May 1, 1945.

At 0115, Task Force Lee closed in Starnberg, and no enemy action reported. At 0509, CC-R tells Ex O to alert his command for immediate movement and they also tell CO to report to this Headquarters for orders immediately. CP is in west edge of town just north of road Dihedral (17 AIB) used to enter town. At 0545, CO departs for CC-R and order personnel are called to assemble in Battalion CP. At 0630, CO returns from CC-R with OI #46, CC-R Hq, 12th AD, dated 0600B01 May 1945 (order for attack on Insbruck). CO also issues following order to order personnel:

This order is classified SECRET.

HQ CC-R, 12 AD
Starnberg, Germany
(Y6940)
010600B May 45

OI #46

MAP: GERMANY, 1/100,000.

1. Friendly infantry holds bridgehead over LAISACH RIVER at WOLFRATSHAUSEN (Y7530), and at RUPPLING (Y7730).

2. a. CC-R passes thru friendly bridgehead, moves to the east, then south and southwest to capture INSBRUCK (Y7730). CC-A follows CC-R.

b. Axis of attack: STARNBERG (Y6940), FARCHACH (Y7236), WOLFRATSHAUSEN (Y7530), RUPPLING (Y7730), THANNING (Y8332), LINDEN (Y8828), BERGHAM (Y98431), HOLZKIRCHEN (Y9627), then to Super-highway, along Super-highway to PFRAUNDORF (Z2821), then south and southwest along INN RIVER to INSBRUCK.

c. Order of March: 17 AIB (plus B/495)

Hq CC-R

23 Tank Battalion

495 AFA Battalion (-)
C/82 Med
C/119 Engr
Tns CC-R

Units establish Ln with units they follow.

3. The following checkpoints are effective immediately; others previously issued cancelled.

3 – 7138	11 – 7326	5 – 9828	6 – 2516	31 – 3090
8 – 7240	17 – 8923	2 – 0828	30 – 3810	26 – 2236
4 – 8035	12 – 8824	1 – 1321	20 - 3702	29 – 1981
7 – 7630	14 – 8329	13 – 2523	25 – 3596	33 – 0576
				35 – 8662
				40 – 8056

4. Tns CC-R control.

5. Units report location of leading elements every 30 min and resistance being encountered.

GORDON
Col FA

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Tirey
/t/ TIREY
S-3

Order of March for 23rd Tank Battalion.

Task Force Ebbage (B/17, AG Plat A/23rd)
Engr Platoon, C/119
Task Force Lee (B/23, 3 Prov/7A, Mortar Plat/23)
Battalion Hq, Emergency Tns

Report location of leading elements every 30 minutes. If 17 AIB meets any resistance, 23 Tank Battalion can expect to pass around them and continue attack. At 0750, CC-R was notified that head of column moved out. At 0825, leading elements located at (Y25358), vicinity Farchach. At 0830, Task Force Ebbage reports slight change in route. All commands be sure and follow column. At 0915, leading elements located at (Y7532), Ruppling, Germany. No opposition met. At 0955, CC-R orders Ex O to send small force, doubling column, to town of Egling (Y815320) to collect PWs. PWs are to be brought with the Battalion. At 1030, Task Force Ebbage reports location at town of Endlhausen (Y865345), column is halted. At 1034, CO, A Co part of Task Force Ebbage, reports enemy tank tracks in road recently made.

At 1058, leading elements of Task Force Ebbage are located at (Y878350) in Gross (Y882351), not moving. At 1100 CC-R tells CO to turn right at town of Sauerlach (Y9238), go south to Arget (Y9134), Bergham (Y9431), then to Holzkirchen (9628), leaving small detachment at each town to clear towns and pick up PWs and establish PW cage at Holzkirchen. Leave detachment to guard there until relieved by 12th Armored Division. At 1200, CC-R tells CO that it is estimated about 150 PWs in town of Sauerlach. You have several with you, set up PW cage in Sauerlach. At 1220, leading elements took off on route of advance at 1220B. At 1252, leading elements now located 1.4 Km from first town south of Sauerlach (Arget). At 1326, leading elements located in woods (Y945295) approx 1 ½ Km south of Bergham. At 1340, Task Force Ebbage reports going down woods (Y945295) and drew SA fire. Small AT weapons believed to be there. At 1345, CC-R was notified of the resistance met. At 1510, no change in leading elements, still clearing out woods at (Y945295). Note: approx. 500 PWs have been taken so far. At 1515, CO reports situation to Ex O: four PWs who came from woods and their reports of men in these woods vary from 70 to 80 SS armed with SA, Panzerfaust, 4 of them, 1 MG. Their number includes five officers. PWs have also seen one or two large tanks moving south through woods this morning. Estimate troops seen vary from 150 to 450, they are equipped with SA. No PWs have seen any Italians in town. Request you check report about Italians and unarm soldiers in Holzkirchen. A check on that information will determine how we will attack town. Big Boys are firing into woods, doughs preparing to enter. There is a roadblock on road which was opened for a German tank.

At 1455, answer to Ex O request about Italians from CC-R. Italians should have been reported in town at (Y961198), Erlkan, Germany. Push the attack, you are delaying movement of command. At 1556, CO, Co A reports being fired on by bazooka, no casualties, also roadblock encountered. Engrs are called to clear road. At 1620, following conversation was held by FM between CO, CC-R and CO, 23rd. CC-R: If you go into town without firing, I don't believe they will fire on you. CO: We observed town, no sign of activity. I prefer to have a little tank fire preparation. CO-R: Unless you receive fire, I can see no point in firing. CO: Sometimes they hold fire until we are trapped. CC-R: There has been no indication of being fired on by any other part of this command. Go in prepared to fire immediately with doughboys on tanks. At 1627, Task Force Ebbage reports coming through clearing on woods at right. Tanks are deploying on right. Infantry will clean up woods on left and support tanks firing on right. He is preparing to go into town firing. (CO orders Task Force Ebbage) to approach town deployed, holding fire until fired on. Task Force Lee will be ready to support the attack. At 1655, Task Force Ebbage reports 50 enemy aircraft in town of Holzkirchen, by Italian PWs. At 1700 civilian comes out of Holzkirchen with slip from Major surrendering town to our leading elements. At 1710, leading elements report finding Red Cross Hospital with much equipment. At 1715, S-3 reports that friendly cavalry unit reports two SS companies (75 each company) left Holzkirchen five hours ago, destination unknown. At 1717 Ex O tells CC-R: Holzkirchen cleared at 1715, we are continuing on our route at 1820. CC-R tells CO to capture Oster-Warngau and settle down in there for night (Y9924). At 1830 CC-R gives their location as Mitl-Darching. At 2000, CC-R gives their location as Mitl-Darching. At 2000, CO ordered to send section of light tanks, squad engineers, to reconnoiter route from Oster-Warngau to vicinity Thathan (X0523) to check bridge in vicinity so that stream may be crossed to reach autobahn; these routes were found

impassable. At 2200, CC-R notified that route recommended was impassable; CC-R notifies CO if patrols are unable to locate suitable road to bridge located in tonight, intensify reconnaissance at daylight, 2 May 1945.

May 2, 1945.

At 0045, Battalion CP Track reached Oster-Warngau and sets up for the night. At 0310, CO tells CC-R that in the morning we will concentrate on northern route, then woods; we will let southern route go for time being. At 0550, XX-R tells CO to intensify reconnaissance to bridge site and route to same. You may send reconnaissance as far south as next town, Unt Hoger (Z035175). At 0643, patrol consisting of a section of light tanks, platoon of infantry, and squad of engineers moves out to reconnoiter route from our present location, northeast, north and southeast and if necessary main road from Oster-Warngau to Niesbach (Y0680185). At 0715, CC-R notifies CO to continue reconnaissance of route to bridge sites. Send a strong patrol company-size to coord (Z025299) vicinity Unter-Darching, to seize bridge or crossing there. There are probably 100 disarmed enemy in town of Unter-Darching, on the route. We must have a crossing. At 0726, reconnaissance patrol reports hearing fire, they have captured nine PWs. Fire was from vicinity of Higher Hq and it was friendly. At 0825, reconnaissance patrol reports they got as far as Rontberg (Z030245) and road at the point is impassable, goes straight over a hill into a barn. Request to return to Schunidham (Z005158) and reconnaissance second route. At 0835, Task Force Lee with squad Plat C/119 engineers attached will seize Unter-Darching (Z014292). Note: Task Force Ebbage remains in present location (Oster-Warngau). At 0845, Task Force Lee moves out. At 0906, Task Force Lee reports 20 enemy aircraft about 50 yards off road in first patch of woods (Y9825). CO orders attached engineers with Lee to destroy them. At 0910, patrol reports by FM that they went out on first route through forest to top of hill. From there grade was steep with marsh at bottom of hill, making it impassable. Request permission to reconnaissance to north; permission is granted by CO. At 0930, 3rd squad, plat C/119 Engineers are briefed by S-3 as to whereabouts of enemy planes found by Task Force Lee (Y9825). They depart to take over the destruction of enemy planes. At 0930, Task Force Lee reports that he has contacted some big boys (medium tanks) from another outfit. Friendly troops in village he has as an ultimate objective. At 0950 patrol reports by FM finding 15 German trucks and approx. 30 weapons at coord (Z025-245), Fontbeg. At 1000 Task Force Lee reports he sent a section of light tanks, one platoon mediums, and one platoon Indians (3rd Prov/7A) to see about bridge. At 1008 CC-R tells Ex O that dictator (CC-A) in town of Holzkirchen, with mission of following us. At 1043, patrol reports by FM that they are traveling down railroad track heading for town of Thalkan. At 1051, Task Force Lee Commander reports there is a bridge 40 feet long, 14 feet wide and 20 feet above water at the location, a single span. In order to ferry a great number of any vehicles, it would need reinforcing; waiting for engineers' opinion about it. Request engineers knocking enemy planes report down here at bridge. At 1115, CO, CC-R tells CO: when you reach small town, turn south to main highway then go east. Leave a guard on the bridge until the command has passed, also my command will follow you, then trains will cross. Let me know when your leading elements reach the main highway. I will then have reconnaissance elements coming from other direction meet you and guide you around the detour. Keep me informed every 30 minutes so I can inform Higher Hq; move

your command as soon as possible, it is of urgent importance. At 1135, Co Commanders meeting and with order personnel. CO issues following order: a. No enemy information except prisoners coming in. b. CC-A in Holzkirchen waiting to follow CC-R. c. Lt Lee, Task Force found intact bridge at coord (023299), he is now holding bridge and requires reinforcements. Engineers, CC-R are on their way there now with treadways. d. CC-R marches on this bridge without delay. e. 23rd Tank leaves without delay to cross on that bridge. f. Route of march: northwest out of end this town (Oster-Warngau) to Y junction approx. 2 Km to northwest, then straight north on same highway we came down here to the intersection. Turn right at that intersection, then left on main road under autobahn to Unter-Darching; northeast through town to the bridge, continue on past the bridge to the northeast through the woods to the town of Dilching. Then turn right, travel almost due south, hitting the autobahn at Muhlthal (Z028268), turn left on the autobahn and continue to the east. g. Order of march: Task Force Lee with squad engineers, Task Force Ebbage, Battalion Hq, emergency trains. h. CC-R will have patrol sent from 17th to the west to meet us along the autobahn. 17th is now at Pfraundorf (Z2821), Lee will maintain guard on bridge until all of CC-R is passed. At 1155, Ex O tells CC-R that light vehicles of northern force have crossed bridge and are reconnoitering route south to autobahn. At 1225, CO tells CC-R engineers state bridge will take all vehicles except big boys. He does not have the equipment to reinforce this particular bridge for heavy loads. Also, if he did have the equipment, it would take at least one day to do the job. (021235B). At 1250, CC-R asks CO: How far is your reconnaissance units east of river toward autobahn. Reconnaissance is approx. 1 Km south of Dilching, encountered roadblock but it was eliminated. At 1320, following conversation between CO and CO, CC-R. CO: If it meets with your approval I will push my light column over the road. I am now on my way to get information. CC-R: It does not meet with my approval. Have you reconnoitered route I sent my Ex O with this morning? CO: I am doing that now. CC-R: Why hasn't this been done already? CO: There was a tie-up in the message to the companies. CC-R: Send an engineer who knows what he is doing, along the route. CO: The use of route depended upon your engineer seeing it, I am pushing reconnaissance on southern route. CC-R: Also push reconnaissance to town of Mies Bach (Z0618). CO: How about the one we have already reported at Thalham? CC-R: If road is good. The other road appears to be good. The route from your location to Thalham is questionable. The route from your location south to road crossing appears to be good. At 1323, B/23 tells Ex O: reconnaissance has reconnoitered route that C prescribes. PW reports big road is good 25 Km in direction we want to go. Reconnaissance party is now coming back here. At 1413, Task Force Lee is ordered to keep engineers with him for any work needed. At 1435, Task Force Lee reports he is moving out on route straight south. At 1435, Task Force Lee has been given the mission. Its mission to the south about which we spoke this morning. Route Lee is to move. Int-Lamdern (Z0028), Ober-Wargau (Y980 225) turn right at crossroads (Y986 166) to Mies Bach north to Muhthal on main road, hitting autobahn at that point. At 1455, Ex O tells CC-R that Task Force Lee moved out on new mission to south. At 1530, CO tells CC-R: I have just returned from a personal check of the only route found to town of Thalham. The railroad has large spaces between ties and a single track and the crushed rock is very loose. I do not think it is very good. There is a path running parallel to it. It is suitable for ¼ tons only. The bridge there is in good shape. In this route, however, there is no suitable route to the bridge. The reconnaissance toward Mies Bach is moving now. I believe they just

got a report on it. CC-R: Push reconnaissance as fast as you can, apparently it is our only route. Suggest you have engineers down there to look bridge over, also have plans made so you can move immediately if bridges are in. CO: Preparations have been made and we are all set. CC-R: Suggest that you have part or most of engineer platoon march behind advance guard to check bridges and to repair bypass approx. 5 Km west of 17th location. CO: I am planning to move north from Mies Bach or to you, prefer to move northeast. CC-R: No, move north and join big road there. CO: Roger, from reports I have I think so too. At 1535, CC-R reports that Ln plane says your route that Lee is on is clear and at present time bridges are in at both places. At 1628, Task Force Lee now entering Mies Bach (Z0691185). This information sent to CC-R. At 1635, Task Force Lee now in Mies Bach, first bridge will take anything we have got, second crossing not known as yet. At 1635, CO tells Ex O: Lee will place guard on PWs here in big town. Have Ebbage relieve guards when he comes and have Lee relieve Ebbage, instead of having Ebbage relieve Lee. Have reconnaissance well forward in Ebbage column. At 1710, CO tells Ex O: the bridge in big town is secure, we are moving out. Move your column immediately by prescribed route. You can roll. Be sure to notify higher hq. There is a large number of PWs in this town. Friendly cavalry unit is taking care of them so we won't have to. CC-R answers: push hard, we are right behind you. Any PWs that can jump on halftracks, take them along, if not leave. At 1730, friendly cavalry is occupying big town instead. At 1830, leading elements of Task Force Lee have passed through Goss Pienzenau and are entering Thalham. At 1840, CO, CC-A reports one round of artillery fell in Mies Bach. At 1855, CC-R tells CO to assemble his command in the town of Degerndorf (Z2713). Dihedral (17 AIB) has made reconnaissance to this town. Be prepared to move out on short notice. At 2003, CC-R reports to Ex O that news flash says "Enemy forces in Italy and Western Austria surrender, unconditionally, at 2043." S-3 tells Ex O that civilians say that SS troopers said they were going to come back to town 3 Km east, 1 north of objective 1 and for civilians to remove white flag and to stay in cellars. The Battalion was assembled and moved to location ordered by CC-R. At 2325, Task Force Lee tells Ex O: we have out-posted our sector of town and are waiting for fuel. At 2325, S-3 tells Ex O: we have information that SS troopers advised civilians they were going to make a raid on this town, supposedly coming from town to north. Waiting for you to close to prepare warm welcome for them. At 2346, all commanders to turn on lights when they leave autobahn and move rapidly to assembly area. Note: Approx 1500 PWs captured during the day. S-2 also reports enemy planes (50) destroyed on ground.

May 3, 1945.

At 0055, CC-R continued attack along axis already given at 030500B. At this time our Battalion had set up a defense around the town waiting for the attack, but nothing ever came of this report. We had check every hour from our outpost which was on the alert at all times. At 0700, Ex O tells CC-R that leading elements moved out to continue the attack. At 0726, CC-R notifies CO that gas will not be used in building fires under any circumstances. Vehicles will march with proper interval and not bumper-to-bumper; he also tells CO: if bridge is out at coord (Z298142), vicinity Mussdorf, don't fire on it until notified by this headquarters. Also, _____ will send a force, company-size strong in infantry, recommend 1 platoon tanks to cover river in Erly, so just stay put. They will continue south along

river. At 0859, Ex O tells CC-R that leading elements are over bridge. The bridge over the big river is intact. Guard established. Force is preparing to move out now. At 0945, Task Force Lee was told that French Armored column was following along his route, how far they would go was not known. At 1012, CO and S-2 ordered to report to higher headquarters. At 1050, B/17 tells Ex O: we have two krauts, they state there is a roadblock across the stream just before entering the town of Windshausen (Z325305). The roadblock is defended in front by panzerfaust and rear by 4 AT guns. There are soldiers dug in between Windshausen and Erlweidau (Z235071), number 400 to 500. They are reported to be armed with a number of machine guns. Each man is supposed to have 500 rounds ammo. We are going ahead but would like to know whether twin brother on right (17 AIB) has drawn fire from this side of river. If they have, we will open up with artillery and really plaster them. At this time Ex O requests this information from higher headquarters. At 1145, CO tells Task Force Lee that a new mission has come up for him. No detach as yet. Get command under control for move. At 1230, Task Force Lee alerted as per overlay. Task Force Lee assigned mission of holding entrance to pass west and south of Brannenburg (Z2712) and to send light mounted patrol on road entering pass to check for possible escaping enemy. He is to hold entrance to pass under observation and fire until relieved. At 1259, CC-R tells Ex O: notify Task Force Ebbage that (17 AIB) expecting a large surrender of approx. 1000 men and a general. Also, we want Task Force Ebbage to cross International Boundary (Germany and Austria) as soon as possible. CC-R tells Ex O to have Task Force Ebbage try to negotiate a _____ with _____ troops.....(indecipherable) notify me and we will send troops into rear of that force. 17 AIB is located at (Z2633).(indecipherable) At 1318, Task Force Ebbage reports that a position of his force has crossed International Boundary. At 1327, CC-R tells Ex O the surrender deal did not go through, and to continue his operation. CC-R was notified of Task Force Ebbage crossing the Boundary. At 1340, B/17 tells CO that he has been trying to negotiate with the troops to his front. I have sent two enemy soldiers who are now civilians down to have them give up. We are now waiting for their return. About half my force is over the Boundary. We are moving slowly over the prescribed route. More of the force is rushing over. I will stay here until the two I sent down return. We have been receiving panzerfaust and SA fire landing on other side of river now over here. At 1401 Task Force Lee reports he has moved out on mission; has little boys with him. At 1425 Task Force Lee says we are now deep within a ravine. It does not look like our country. If they wish to fight, we will be in a bad way. We can't turn our vehicles around. At 1432, mortar platoon notifies Ex O: we are held up by a roadblock, 1 ½ KM north of Regau (Z2708); will take approx. 30 minutes to clear. No resistance encountered as yet. Civilian reports enemy with panzerfaust came up route this morning and are presumably along our route. At 1443, CO tells CC-R that Lee reports route up canyon very narrow and prohibits turning around of tanks if necessity should arise. In short, it is not good tank country. Is it desired that we continue with tanks? Infantry could go up but could receive no tank support. At 1339, CC-R tells Ex O to withdraw your Task Force Lee to his original assembly area. At 1539, Task Force Ebbage reports he has managed to.....(indecipherable)..... He has mortar fire on the right side of the river, but he has received none. At 1512, most of Task Force ...(line indecipherable)... is moving out. (Note: the surrender deal did not go through.) At 1530 Task Force Lee says that he will return to original assembly area as soon as patrol returns. Patrol went forward to reconnoiter the tunnel. At 1558, Co A says that

they ran into a roadblock consisting of wire and logs. At 1600 Lee reports that patrol has not returned as yet. At 1647 Task Force Lee's patrol has returned and they captured 24 PWs. At 1655, Co A reports a school house full of munitions and requests engineers to his location to take care of it (Z336077). At 1739, CO asks CC-R if it was possible to get additional troops to follow up Ebbage. Answer was no troops in present location, use Task Force Lee for this mission. At 1752, B/17 tells Ex O: lead vehicles of column on south side of stream, junction of town of Weidau (Z338072) below Erly. The bridge there collapsed, a detour was formed that we are taking now. It will be good for more than my column, am proceeding on mission. At 1806, CO requests that he move his entire command along Ebbage's route, we can take care of ourselves. At 1831, message sent to Ex O from CO: we are moving out immediately. We are continuing to guard installations in town and out on bridge. We may be relieved from installations in town but not as yet. At 1835, Task Force Ebbage notifies Ex O: point held up by artillery fire. One big boy is knocked out, apparently by that fire. Bridge is still intact. At 1858, Ex O notifies CC-R: as the point tanks approached bridge location, they were fired upon by panzerfaust. One tank knocked out. Bridge seems intact. Civilians state bridge is mined for demolition. Location Reinsach (Z3406), 120 SS troops on hill to left armed with panzerfaust. Just short of bridge there is a roadblock of concrete and steel. At 1900, infantry moving out dismounted (indecipherable)..... Task Force Lee ...to follow along Ebbage's route. CP track moves out behind Lee from its location to follow Lee. At 1937, CC-R tells Ex O that no air strike will be delivered on town of Niederndorf (Z365045). At 2012, S-3 tells Ex O: in town vicinity Reinsach just cleared, column moving on. Will let you know when we are in next town. (Note: CP track crossed International Boundary at 2000B.) At 2020 S-3 to Ex O: we have 120 PWs and two officers, what disposition do you expect to make for them tonight? Our location is town of Niederndorf (Z264045). At 2050, CC-R tells CO that supply route will have to be your responsibility at present. 17 AIB starts tomorrow 30 minutes later continues the same mission as today. At 2115 Ex O tells CC-R: the bridge is ours. There is a guard posted on the bridge and demolitions have been removed. Our leading elements in Niederndorf (Z364045), approx. 120 PWs taken, remainder of column moving into that town for the night. At 2150 CO tells CC-R that we have observed a mortar vehicle column moving north on east side of river. At least 15 vehicles had lights that looked like our cat eyes. Can you find out whether there are any friendly columns moving in this area? At 2320, CC-R tells Ex O unit will have a billeting party able to move on one hour's notice after 040700B May 1945. At 2325, security has been set and placed around Niederndorf. CC holds Task Force Commanders and Staff Officers meeting in CP, following points discussed. A. Enemy column explained by engineer, he saw lights coming up from east in vicinity (363000), also lights no longer observed further north than (Z363007). FO observed cat eyes resembling ours, after FO left, lights were observed coming from town southwest of bridge. B. Artillery in town was same town as air strike. C. Capt Ebbage has two squads guarding bridge. D. Guards on bridge and valuable papers which we are guarding will have to be kept. E. Each element will have a billeting party organized ... to assemble at a designated point on half hour's notice from this headquarters after 0700 tomorrow morning. An officer if you have one. Ex O will take charge. Plan to report to Battalion CP, to Ex O. At 2350, S-3 notified. Was set up, Niederndorf (Z365045).

May 4, 1945.

At 0030, CC to CC-R: bridge at coord (Z340057) is old wooden structure, estimated capacity 8 tons. Request authority to move guard from it. Bridge at (Z348042) is concrete, will carry all loads, am maintaining guard on it. At 0055, CO to CC-R: Burgomeister of town Ob Audorf (Z333040) wants to surrender town and have our troops move in. Status no krauts in town. We instructed to hang out white flags. This town is on the 17 AIB route. At 0620, B 23 tells Ex O we are now mounting tanks, getting ready to move out. At 0749, Ex O requests information from CC-R: is there any friendly troops in our area? At 0750, CO tells Task Force Lee to drop off one mortar squad to guard bridge. At 0755, S-3 to Ex O: now approaching town of Ebbs, Austria (Z367022). Town has SS troops and we fired on them and they are moving east out of town through woods at base of mountain. At 0800, S-3 reports they are going through Ebbs and no resistance met. At 0815, S-3 reports they are going through town 1.35 – 6 west CP #20 (Oberadorf, Austria, 2364007), everything OK. At 0835, S-2 tells S-2, CC-R that we are evacuating approx. 270 PWs in town this unit stayed in yesterday, Niederndorf. At 0844, CO reports his location at Ebbs, Austria and also says road is in excellent condition, also leading elements 2.4 south 1 west CP #20 (Z360 996). Held up by roadblock at that point, reconnaissance for bypass is being made, roadblock is not defended, have sent squad beyond roadblock to protect it. Bypass could not be found so we are having roadblock removed. At 0945, S-3 reports about 1000 yards are krauts with rifles and machine guns at roadblock at right area, few panzerfausts. Have engineers take care of them. The road is more arduous, continues approx. 1 Km of improved dirt road. At 0952, roadblock cleared and have run into small arms and machine gun fire. One little boy knocked out ...(indecipherable)... on the other crew member now. At 0956, S-3 reports AT gun 800 yards range. Picked up location of gun. Now firing on it, crew from little boy are all OK. At 1029, B 17 tells Ex O that they are receiving 20-MM fire on our column and are trying to take care of it right now. At 1045, B 17 tells Ex O: enemy aren't firing at present time, Ln plane is up. The town from which fire is coming is displaying large amount of white flags. Coord of enemy (Z355005). At 1100 S-2 tells CO that doughs out in front ready to pass through woods to assault tow of Sparchen, Austria (Z342982) in woods on left side of road waiting for tanks to continue through. At 1128 leading elements receiving AT fire from town. At 1130 B 17 tells Ex O that we have had three rounds of HE direct fire fall in our vicinity. It seems someone zeroed in on a barn, then quit firing. If they fire around us it will become pretty tough. At 1145 Ex O, CC-R stops in a CP track and informs Ex O that our unit will be relieved some time today at 142 Infantry Regiment of the 36th Infantry Division. After relief, we will assemble in vicinity Nussdorf (Z312142). At 1205, B 17 tells CO that three kraut Luftwaft came down road a few minutes ago, want to see commandant. They say there are 80 of their comrades in town tour left and given orders to surrender. Waiting until firing is over to give themselves up. Their location is not known. It is a small place, coord (Z345971). At 1240 AG platoon tells Ex O to alert billeting parties to move on one hour's notice after 1300. At 1313, we were told to assemble command at location told when we were relieved and be prepared to move out early tomorrow. At 1330, S-3 reports they are doing a little shooting around the hill surrounding the town, one boy hurt, few vehicles blocking bridge, will clear out in a few minutes and go forward. Leading elements 1.3 W, 21... (Z337991). Also, ... Couple PWs picked up moving toward you, bridge is OK and

under guard. At 1335, CO tells S-3 after the (force) gets into town to have Lee reorganize and do not move out until I Give the order. At 1345, B 17 reports they are held up one hour, we have not received any fire in that time. We are setting here waiting for the tank column to proceed down road. We are picking away on supposedly AT fire position across river. All this information was sent to higher headquarters at 1452. Note: Sparchen has been cleared, S-3 and Ex O following message. Task Force Lee taking off from Sparchen to Kufstein (C335965) town run together. At 1501 Task Force Lee tells Ex O: since entering outskirts of town Kufstein, civilians have guns and are fighting with Indians (negroes). At 1510, S-3 to Ex O: Task Force Lee on outskirts of Kufstein, requested permission to go in, no resistance offered. (CO replies: go on in and secure bridge.) At 1525 S-3 reports to Ex O: we are in town of Kufstein (E335965). Bridge is intact, secure on both sides. Have been under the bridge and it looks alright, civilians say there are no demolitions under the bridge. There is no fighting that I can hear in town. We are in town, no resistance yet. CC-R was notified of this action. At 1548, S-3 tells CO: we have taken German commandant of this town. German pocket of resistance in town of Rattenberg, the place on our left. The commandant is willing to surrender, requests he goes with someone in German cars to that town (E135794) Rottenberg. This commandant has connection with commandant at Rattenberg. At 1550 Lee to CO: I talked to commandant and he said I must drive quickly before SS troops barricade roads that have access to that village. (Note: Lt Lee, now a Captain, was given permission to go to this town of Rattenberg and for full account of this operation see Annex 1, 4 May journal 45.)

Lt John C Lee, Jr, was commanding the leading Task Force of the 23d Tank Battalion (reinforced), on 4 May 1945, making the advance south along the Inn River Valley. After capturing the city of Kufstein, Austria, Lt Lee contacted the enemy commander there, a Major of the German Army (Wehrmacht), who stated that he believed negotiations could be made to effect the surrender of German troops in the vicinity of the town of Worgl, Austria, about ten (1) miles further south. When his unit had been relieved and upon being given permission by his battalion commander to attempt negotiations, Lt Lee and one enlisted man went with the German officer in a Cengan vehicle, to Worgl. Enroute, Lt Lee had explosive charges removed from bridges at Eastengstatt and Gratten that were prepared for demolition and observed the defenses along the route, which included five 88 mm guns.

At Worgl, Lt Lee conferred with a German Colonel and also with a German General, neither one of whom would agree to surrender for fear of personal consequences. While still at Worgl, Lt Lee learned from a French civilian that there were a number of prominent French political prisoners confined and under guard at the Itter Castle, about five (5) miles southeast of Worgl. He and the German Major then went to the castle, investigated, and found the report to be true. The political prisoners included Edouard Daladier and Paul Reynaud, Ex-Premier of France; General Mahin E Weygand and Gamelin, former chiefs of Staff of the French Army; Mrs Weygand, Leon Joudaux, former labor leader and leader of the French Trade Unions; Mr Caillaux, former Minister of Finance; Mrs Caillaux, Jean Borotra, eight times world tennis champion and former Vichy Minister of Sports; Colonel

de la Rocque, former Fascist leader and aide to Marshal Foch at Warsaw; Michel Clemenceau, son of the World War I statesman, the sister of General De Gaulle; and other French political figures and members of nobility.

The group was in great fear because they expected to be murdered by SS troops before American troops arrived, as Himmler's chief aide had visited them the night before and gave them quite a speech, telling them that the Gestapo was quite a different organization from the Storm Troopers. Lt Lee promised to return to the castle soon with help, and then left to go back to Kufstein. On the way, he and the German major stopped at each group of the enemy soldiers, told them that the war was over and that sixty (60) American tanks and a thousand American infantry men would arrive at Worgl within the next half hour. He succeeded in getting the enemy soldiers to lay down their arms and abandon the five 88 MM guns, as well as having them move the 88 MM ammunition a considerable distance from the guns.

At Worgl, Lt Lee returned to Kufstein, with the assistance of friendly infantry, organized a detachment of seven medium tanks and a platoon of infantry. Two of the seven tanks were from Lt Lee's own company, the remainder coming from the friendly infantry unit. He led the detachment to Worgl, outposted the northern portion of town, and posted a guard on the bridge at Gratten.

At 2100, Lt Lee, with another officer and five infantrymen, proceeded rapidly along a dark, narrow and very treacherous road to the Itter Castle. On the way he overtook a motorized column that was headed in the same direction. When he arrived at the castle, he found that the Wehrmach Castle guard had laid down its arms and were preparing to abandon the castle, through fear of the SS troops which were expected soon.

Lt Lee immediately reorganized the castle guard, had them take up their arms, and reestablished the defense of the castle, using the few American soldiers he had to reinforce the castle guard. There was one entrance, and/or exit to the castle, and Lt Lee placed his tank in this position. It was 2300, and very dark, by the time the guard was completely established, and the rest of the night was uneventful, except for a four-man SS patrol that tried to scale the castle wall at 0400, 5 May 1945. The patrol was rendered ineffective by machine gun fire delivered by the defenders.

At about 0800, 5 May 1945, one member of the castle guard deserted his post and succeeded in escaping in the direction of the concentrated SS troops. About an hour and a half later, Lt Lee observed three 88 MM guns being moved to a position about 800 yards northwest of the castle, and, at the same time, dismounted SS troops moving into and through the woods around the castle; soon the castle was surrounded. At 1000 the attacking troops opened fire. Lt Lee's tank was hit six times by 88 MM fire. The 88 MM guns then shelled the castle, hitting and destroying the tower. The dismounted attacking troops delivered small arms and machine gun fire, which was returned by the castle guard, Lt Lee, the other American soldiers, the political prisoners with German and American rifles, machine guns, and hand grenades, the German Major, and eight other German soldiers who had surrendered to Lt Lee at the castle about 0900.

The heavy fire fight lasted until about 1400, when the attacking troops apparently started to withdraw, leaving only a few snipers to cover the castle. Infantry, supported by medium tanks, arrived at the castle at about 1500. Lt Lee turned the castle and its personnel over to the Infantry Commander, and then left and rejoined his own command. Lt Lee was not wounded in the action. The German Major and two (2) of the castle guard were killed, two (2) of the castle guard were wounded, and no Americans or French were injured.

At 1610, CO to CC-R: request military government report to this town immediately (Kufstein). At 1615, CC-R tells CO to have relieving unit establish 4 MG in that location as MG is not available at present. At 1620, CO of relieving unit is at our CP. He will be taken to CO who is in Kufstein by our Ex O. Ex O tells CP track to start S-2 on down to billet where we are told to go to. Call CC-R and have dozer on the route we rode down on. The Engineers will pick it up on route gone to town in. The relief unit has gone to town we have just occupied to confer with my sunray (CO). Also, advance elements have gone through. At 1710 S-3A tells CC-R: main body of relief unit is now moving toward town we just occupied (Kufstein). At 1712 CC-R tells CO to turn over to relieving unit all 75 and 76 ammo in your possession in excess of 25 rounds per gun; let me know when it is completed. Answer: Relief unit has 90 MM TDs. Also, CC-R says they have sent dozer on route of advance. At 1840 CO to CC-R: relief accomplished 1815B. Relief of bridge guard still not certain, on checking our guard will remain until relief arrives. At 1845 CO tells CC-R that column has cleared Kufstein (1835B) moving to town of Degerndorf, Germany for billet. At 1915, one tank B Co overturned on bridge in vicinity Ebbs (Z364027) was recovered by Mt. At 2145, Battalion closed in Degerndorf, Germany (Z273132) and mission for 5 May was to exert maximum effort on 1st and 2d echelon maintenance and be prepared to move early 6 May 1945.

May 5, 1945.

At 0740, CC-R orders Ex O to have billeting party report to his Hq without delay, bring maps Nurnburg N-50 and Munchen M-49. At 0852, CO ordered to report to CC-R as soon as possible. CO departs at 0855. At 0945, billeting parties depart under charge of Ex O. CO returns from CC-R and gives assembled staff following notes. A. All 75 MM and 76 MM ammo will be turned over to 36 Inf Division with the exception of 25 rounds per gun. B. We are moving to vicinity Augsburg; mission isn't clear but its policing and patrolling line of communications and supply. C. Battalion will move as a Battalion, 17 will be returned to 17 AIB and C/23 will return to Battalion from 17 AIB at approx. 1300, 5 May 1945. 3d Prov 7th Army will be returned to 17 AIB. D. CC-R moves 0600B tomorrow morning, by way of route to be announced, to Augsburg by way of Munchen; order of March is CC-R, 17 AIB, CC-R Hq, 23d Tank Battalion, Artillery (495), Medics, and Engineers. E. Trains revert to unit 0900, 5 May 1945. Maintenance will be carried out the remainder of this day. CC-R requests that vehicles look as well as possible at all times. No bicycles will be carried at any time. Outside stowage will be repacked and panels will be cleaned up and tied on, not flapping. Individuals will look as clean and neat as possible, in prescribed uniform and riding tanks properly. No tank commander will sit on turret ring. All unauthorized civilian vehicles will be pooled and will be dispatched. No buildings occupied by troops will have civilians. We will relieve the guard of installations. CC-R will be in control of this section.

Burgomeister will be responsible for people and refugees. Looting and search of homes will cease immediately. No man will carry a foreign weapon. Lt Colonel Clow, our CO, will revert back to CC-R. Major William A Edwards will be in command. At 1100, S-3 holds company commanders meeting and gives the above information to Cos. At 1135, CC-R advises Battalion that Engineer Platoon attached to us will revert back to C Co, 119th Engineer immediately. At 1247, CC-R says our Battalion should establish without delay guards we had on yesterday at the Diesel Home and the Radio Research home. Advise them when guards have been posted. (Note: Reconnaissance Platoon was given this mission and CC-R was advised.) At 1500, Battalion received OI #47, Hq, CC-R, 12th AD, dated 051000B. It is the authority for Battalion to move to Augsburg to assume new duties. At 1737, CC-R orders that all units will make regular halt at 061200B during march tomorrow, and at 1300B will move out again. This order is classified as SECRET.

HQ, CC-R, 12 AD
Bichl, Germany
(Z2713)
051000B May 45

OI #47

MAP: GERMANY, 1,250,000

1. CC-R moves to a Division Assembly area 060600B May 1945.
 2. a. Route: Overlay (Annex #1). The bridge in vicinity (Z028270) has not been repaired. It will be by-passed through the north via HOLZOLLING (Z0527), ASCHBACH (Z0432), CRUH (Z0233), then to AUTOBAHN.
 - b. Assembly area: Overlay (Annex #1). Billeting parties will meet their units at MERTINGEN (U2611). 23 Tank Battalion billeting party will meet their unit southeast of USEBURG.
 - c. Order of march:
 - 17 AIB
 - Hq CC-R (plus A/572 AAA)
 - 23 Tank Battalion
 - 495 AFA Battalion
 - C/82 Medics
 - C/119 Engineers
 - C/134 Ornance
 - d. Units will average 12 miles per hour.
- Upon arrival in Assembly area, C/119 Engineers and 495 AFA Battalion revert to parent units. Units will establish Ln with the unit they follow. Units are responsible for marking their own route. 17 AIB will guide CC through MUNICH (Y8556).

3. a. In the new assembly area, units will perform the following duties:
 - (1) Assist Military Govt personnel in setting up Military Govt in sector assigned.
 - (2) Relieve all security personnel that are guarding installations; place guard on these and other installations that you locate.
 - (3) Assist in the guarding and evacuation of displaced personnel.
 - (4) Units will patrol the area they are assigned.
 - (5) Maintenance and rehabilitation.
 - b. All troops in assigned sector under control of CC-R.
 - c. All foreign-made vehicles will be moved into the new assembly area; upon arrival in new assembly area, they will place these vehicles in a unit pool to be turned over to Division.
 - d. Units will police their vehicles to insure that no unnecessary foreign equipment is carried.
 - e. All Government vehicles will be placed in Co pools and all vehicles will be dispatched; this dispatch slip will state to whom dispatched, destination and mission.
 - f. No American soldier will be billeted in the same building with Germans.
4. a. Tns revert to unit control.
 - b. VCP's on southern outskirts of MUNICH and AUGSBURG.
 - c. CP, CC-R to be announced.

GORDON
Col FA

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Tirey
/t/ TIREY
S-3

May 6, 1945.

On the morning of 6 May 1945, the 23d Tank Battalion received OI, Hq, 23d Tank Battalion, dated 060600B May 45, concerning movement from Degerndorf to Augsburg, Germany. Also at this point Major Edwards is in command of Battalion, relieving Lt Col Clow from his action as Battalion CO. Our Battalion Track, head of column, moved out of Degerndorf to new location at 0650B. All units of this command were instructed that there would be a halt from 0750B to 0800B. And also, a halt ten minutes out of each hour. At 1215, column halted in outskirts of Munich for lunch. Resumed march at 1315. Our CP track reached new location in Augsburg, Germany at 1652. Total miles for this march

was 95 miles. By 12715, all companies of this unit were closed in their areas. At 1730, all companies were instructed that all personnel were to keep out of cellars in buildings not occupied. Upon arrival at new location all companies are to start laying wire for telephone communication to Battalion switch-board in Battalion CP without delay. Ex O tells all companies that they would be responsible for their own motor park and billet guard tonight and tomorrow. At 2110, S-3 sends message to all companies of this unit: until further notice meals at 0800, 1200 and 1700. Schedule for 7 May 1945: cleaning of individual clothing and equipment, Personal Hygiene, Vehicular Maintenance. Also, meeting of all officers at Battalion Hq at 1000, 7 May 1945.

May 7, 1945.

In the early morning of this date, the Battalion received the news that the whole US Army has been waiting for. Message was from 12 AD Hq, informing us that the war has ended in the ETO. At 1000 the meeting for all officers took place, and the CO gave them a little on the situation concerning occupational policies.

Order is classified as SECRET. Hqs, 12th Armored Division.

OI #13

1. 12th Armored Division relieves SEVENTH ARMY SECURITY COMMAND and Corps security troops in position beginning 7 May and completing the relief as soon thereafter as practicable.

2. Upon relief of elements 44th AAA Brigade (Seventh Army Security Command) units will assume command of areas in ANNEX #B (overlay) to include:

- a. Providing for the protection of certain targets found within the Division area.
- b. Protecting supply installations, supplementing as necessary the installation guards and coordinating security measures.
- c. Insuring the security of railroads, main supply roads, petroleum pipelines, and critical signal installations.
- d. Collection into Displaced Persons Centers of those displaced persons who are:
 - (1) Migrating.
 - (2) Disorderly.
 - (3) A security board hazard.
 - (4) Specifically requested by Military Government to be collected.
- e. Guarding of Displaced Persons Centers.
- f. Guarding and disposition of captured enemy materiel and supplies as directed by current operations instructions.

g. Disarming and police of civilian population.

h. Support of Military Government detachments.

i. Disciplinary control of all troops in the area. This includes members of all allied forces whether under command of Seventh Army or not.

3. In the relief of elements 44th AAA Brigade, commanders are authorized to coordinate directly with the appropriate Corps security groups. Existing zones of responsibility are shown Annex #1 (overlay).

4. In the guarding of railways, pipelines, etc, physical contact will be established with patrols or sentries of adjacent units.

5. a. In the absence of existing Displaced Persons Centers, unit commanders will be responsible for the establishment of such centers within their zones of responsibility. Close coordination with Military Government is required.

b. Displaced persons will be divided into two categories:

(1) Cat I to include members of the German Armed Forces and suspected spies and saboteurs.

(2) Cat I to include all others such as liberated allied prisoners, "slave laborers," refugees, etc.

(These two categories will be kept separate.)

c. Units are responsible for the evacuation to Displaced Persons Centers. Army will be responsible for evacuation from these centers.

6. A thorough check will be made by all commanders prior to relief of a unit to determine to what extent a particular area has been screened for firearms and other munitions in hands of civilians. Duplication of effort will be avoided whenever possible.

7. Reports:

a. A Deployment Statement from each zone commander will be submitted in accordance with the diagram below. Deployment statements to be submitted daily as of 1800B hours to reach this headquarters by 0900B. NOTE: Unit reports this Hq by 0700B.

UNIT	LOCATION (Coordinate)	SAMPLE STATEMENT		TOTAL NO MEN	INSTALLATION & LOCATION
		NO OF POS TS	NO OF MTZ PATROLS		
Co A, 714 Tk	T-240185	1		3	German PW Hosp Blauberuen
			2	6	Security Patrol vicinity Laupheim
			etc		
Total 714 Tk		16	6	183	

b. Daily S-3 Periodic Reports will be submitted as of 2400B hours to reach this headquarters by 0200B hours. This report will be submitted by the most expeditious means of signal communication. NOTE: Unit reports this Hq as of 1800 by 2400B.

8. In addition to the security mission outlined above, commanders will insure that a maximum of time is allocated for maintenance and rehabilitation.

By command of Major General ALLEN:

WALLACE H. BARNES
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/S/ Harry E. Earl
/t/ HARRY E. EARL
Asst AG

At 1300, this Battalion gets a new CO, Lt Col Wright. Wright resumes command of the 23rd Tank Battalion immediately. Also at this time civilian farmers and Polish refugees state 30 to 40 SS troops armed with panzerfaust, 3 MGs and one artillery piece are operating in woods at (T-42098) and (T-4410). Last night they were reported to have killed one German and French refugees and fired at American vehicles traveling singly. At 1305, CC-R is sending a Polish refugee with this messenger. He can share location of woods; he lives in vicinity of Burgheim. After he has served the purpose, deliver him to his home. CC-R also orders Battalion to immediately investigate and clear out any enemy troops there. At 1400, one platoon of medium tanks (4 tanks) from B Co, one platoon of light tanks from D Co, Reconnaissance Platoon Hq CO, one medium jeep are alerted and prepared to move to vicinity of woods (T-4410) and (T-4209). At 1515 Task Force departs for woods to clean up SS troops. The Battalion spent most of the day in cleaning up personal weapons and vehicles, and personal hygiene. At 2200 all captured vehicles regardless of registration will be turned over to Battalion Mt by 1700, 8 May

1945. This includes trailers also. At 2345, Task Force which went to clear out woods returned and platoon leader, B Co gives following account of occurrences: arrived at Walda, 6:30 PM sent to Brugheim for Polish refugee who supposedly knew location of enemy troops. He did not know where they were. We went to Heidorf (T454070), Haselbach (T439086) and Etting (T408110), sprayed MGs into woods on both sides. Met no resistance. Civilian in Haselbach reported that there were six enemy soldiers in woods who had caused disturbance. We then returned to Augsburg, closing in at 2345.

May 8, 1945.

At 0800, message from CC-R saying to send one officer to weapons school. He is to report to Officers Mess, 7th Army Hqs in Augsburg. School is at 1400 for half day. At 1545, Co commanders informed that there will be a meeting in CP tonight. At 1225, received list of targets from 68th AA Group located at (Analen). Order classified SECRET.

<u>TARGET NO.</u>	<u>TOWN AND LOCATION</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
AP 149	Nordlingen Ottingen T-1043 Hainsforth T-115440 Hainsforth T-115440	Jeep Patrol ASP #909
MT 5	Nordlingen T-0231	Enemy Aircraft FW 158
AP 171	Nordlingen T-0231 Nordlingen T-0231	Class I Dump # 541 AMG HQ Nazi Records
MY 6	Nordlingen T-0231	Jeep Patrol 8 hospitals
MY 23	vic Nordlingen T-0231 vic Reimlingen T-0328	China Warehouse Hosp w/170 PWs, 28 Staff
MY 73	Mottingen T-094274	Bridge
MY 74	Lierheim T-105265	Bridge
MY 39	Harburg T-160250	Army Repeater Station
MY 75	Ebermergen T-109220	Bridge
MY 18	Treuchtlingen T-323444	PW Hospital w/92 PWs
MY 2	Pappenheim T-370420	Two PW hospitals
MY 3	Monheim T-285315	Warehouse with cigars
MY 1		
23 rd Tk Bn MY 89	Aichach Y-510903 Aichach Y-510903 Schrobenhausen, T-605020	Prison, 2300 women, 800 men 4 hospitals with 350 PWs 4 hospitals with 630 PWs
MY 26	Neider-Schoenfeld T-3518	Jail with 200 prisoners
MY 25	Neuburg T-5320 Neuburg T-52010	3 hospitals with 1850 patients Jeep Patrol

At 1607 CC-R orders guard placed on Military Target at (T476183) and send in an investigation. At 1800 Co Commanders meeting.

Plans were discussed for a line of security police, security guard, and occupation.

First mission is to clean up personnel and vehicles and at same time we are to take over area including military targets which include hospitals, supply dumps, and records. We establish control over all displaced persons, stragglers, stray SS or Wehrmacht picked up. Maintain law and order among our own troops and see collection of weapons from all civilians.

At 2100, Companies A, B, D, and Hq given orders for military targets they are to take over 9 May 1945. After each of the past two days have the men finish their day's work. They would enjoy themselves in a game of softball and a number of other games. The morale of the men in the unit has been very good all through the past operations.

May 9, 1945.

At 0900, Companies A, B, C, and Hq moved out to take over installations known as military targets as they were given at 2100, 8 May 1945. A Co CP is located in Main (T3415), B Co CP is located in Schrobenhausen (T6002) and D Co CP is located in Aichach (Y5190). Hq Co remains in Augsburg to take over assigned installations.

This is classified as SECRET by 12th Armored Division.

1. 100 Infantry Division relieves elements 12th Armored Division in Z shown overlay and assumes command of area upon completion of relief.
2. 12 FA Brigade attached 12th Armored Division upon arrival area vicinity Heilbronn.
3. No change in Trs lists for units 12th Armored Division.
4. c. CC-R - Prepare to be relieved on Division O by elements 13 FA Brigade and CC-B in Z shown overlay. When relieved assume command area shown overlay in accordance with instructions in OM 13.

At 1200, CO, CC-R visits CO to discuss situation. Later on in the evening this Battalion received overlay of the disposition of 12th AD. All the personnel which were left in the Battalion area were used for security around the CP and Motor Park.

May 10, 1945.

The morning of this date was very quiet, due to the fact that all our companies were out guarding installations. At 1330 Battalion received OI #48, Hq, CC-R, new area of Hq, A, B, and D Companies remain on their military targets as guards.

Classified as SECRET.

1. CC-R assumes control new area of occupation – (Annex #1).
2. 17 AIB be prepared to be relieved by 13th FA Brigade; 3 Tank Battalion be prepared to be relieved by CC-B, 12 AD. Time of relief to be announced.
3. Units will immediately instigate reconnaissance for new assembly areas for their troops in the new area assigned.
4. Units will keep this Hq informed as to progress of relief.

At 1430 message stating we have a new target, hydro electric plant vicinity Brummen (T631095). PD relieves Co G 114th Inf. At 1513, following message sent to B Co, 23d: platoon on duty vicinity Neuburg (Y5320) will be relieved immediately by A Co. Upon relief, this platoon will take over all targets and patrols vicinity Aichach (Y5090) now operated by B Co. Movement will be accomplished this date. Platoon of B Co at Neuburg advised of movement. At 1517, message sent to D Co. Your command will be relieved from guard duty vicinity Aichach (Y5090), by B Co this date. Upon relief you will move your command to Augsburg immediately. At 1520, following message sent to A Co. Move one platoon to Neuburg (T5320) immediately to relieve platoon B Co. All targets and patrols in that area will be taken over. At 1525 following message sent to B Co. New target in your area. Hydro-electric plant vicinity Brummen (T631095). You will relieve Co G, 114th Inf without delay. At 1540, following message sent to B Co platoon leader. You are to be relieved immediately by A Co. Upon relief return with your platoon to your company area vicinity Schrobenhausen (6002). At 2035 following report sent to CC-R. Following enemy materiel located: 15 (75 MM) AT guns now loaded on flat cars (T475184). One carload artillery shells fuses (T475186). 8 jet aircraft engines (T475186). Underground communication center (T470183). Oil testing or research lab (T485180). Request specialists from proper branch be sent to investigate and dispose of above materiel. (This was found by A Co.) At 2327 Battalion guard on 41 targets using a total of 299 men.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR MAY 1945 (1 to 7 May)

KILLED IN ACTION

Negative.

WOUNDED IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DATE WOUNDED</u>
Maurice A Leonard	Tec 5	6 147 764	5 May 1945
Charles E McMullen	Pvt	36 909 335	3 May 1945
Ernest C Kerns	Pvt	35 781 901	3 May 1945

MISSING IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DATE MISSING</u>
James E Welch	Cpl	39 400 365	10 April 1945
Robert L Cook	Tec 5	37 395 403	10 April 1945

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT

Negative.

OFFICERS REPORT FOR 1 – 7 MAY 1945

Battalion Headquarters

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Changes and Transfers</u>
Lt Col	Kelso G Clow	019 784	
Major	William A Edwards	0 351 514	
Capt	James P Fortenberry	01 013 701	
Capt	Alan L Hann	01 012 557	
Capt	Harmon L Spencer	0 340 939	
Capt	Virgil L Thorp	01 010 513	
1 st Lt	Carleton B Lucas	01 017 716	
1 st Lt	John L Mowatt	01 013 378	
1 st Lt	Joseph C Watson, Jr	01 014 750	

CASUALTY REPORT FOR MAY 1945 (1 to 7 May) (continued)

Battalion Headquarters (continued)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Changes and Transfers</u>
2d Lt	John T McBride	0 547 636	
2 nd Lt	Robert A von Doenhoff	01 315 117	
2d Lt	Robert A von Doenhoff		Promoted to grade of 1 st Lt per Par 3, SO 121, Hq, 7 th Army, 1 May 1945
1 st Lt	John L Mowatt		Promoted to grade of Capt per Par 3, SO 121, Hq, 7 th Army, 1 May 1945
Lt Col	Kelso G Clow		Transferred to Hq, CC-B, 12 th AD as of 7 May 45 per Par 6, SO 102, Hq, 12 AD. Relieved of command of Battalion
Lt Col	John R Wright, Jr	019 817	Assigned & joined from Hq, 3d Army US APO 403 as of 7 May 45 per Par 5, SO 102, Hq, 12 AD. Assumes command of Battalion, 7 May 45
Major	William A Edwards		Assumes duties of Ex O as of 7 May 45
Capt	James P Fortenberry		Prin Duty changed to S-3 as of 7 May 45
Capt	Harmon L Spencer		Prin Duty changed to S-2 as of 7 May 45
1 st Lt	Joseph C Watson, Jr		Relvd of duties as S-2; no prin dy asgnd

Headquarters Company

1 st Lt	Howard T Rabe	01 018 181	
2d Lt	Robert J Andre	02 011 787	
2d Lt	Kenneth S North	02 011 504	
2d Lt	Francis J Gallagher	02 011 676	
2d Lt	Anthony Pawloski	01 017 046	Assigned & joined fr Co D, this Battalion per Par 1, SO 36, Hq, 23d Tank Battalion. Prin dy assigned Co Maint O

Service Company

Capt	Joseph E Tomkinson	01 010 418	
1 st Lt	Herman E Cerhard	01 018 685	
2d Lt	Henry O Coovert	02 011 786	
CWO	Raymond R Richardson	W2 123 153	
WOJG	Ronald Sutherland	W2 135 352	

CASUALTY REPORT FOR MAY 1945 (1 to 7 May) (continued)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Changes and Transfers</u>
<u>Company A</u>			
1 st Lt	Francis L Perkins	01 018 137	
1 st Lt	Cecil D Walston	01 017 342	
2d Lt	Leslie B Miller	02 010 594	
<u>Company B</u>			
1 st Lt	John C Lee, Jr	0 444 563	
1 st Lt	Harry Basse	01 015 542	
2d Lt	David W McBride	0 547 635	
1 st Lt	John C Lee, Jr		Promoted to grade of Capt per Par 3, SO 121, Hq, 7 th Army dated 12 May 45
2d Lt	Forrest S DeMoss	02 014 972	Commissioned from Enlisted Status and assigned & joined fr Co B, 23 Tk Bn as of 8 May 45. Prin Duty asgnd Tk Plat Ldr
<u>Company C</u>			
1 st Lt	Ernest H Garneau	01 013 626	
1 st Lt	Henry S Andersen	01 018 179	
2d Lt	Henry R Bridge	02 014 860	
<u>Company D</u>			
2d Lt	Anthony Pawloski	01 017 046	
2d Lt	Houston H Gautt	02 011 789	
2d Lt	Charles A Rigler	01 011 505	
1 st Lt	James E Stowe	01 013 741	Fr trfd to 7 th Army Det of Pat to dy. Assmes dy of Co Comdr as of 7 May 45
2d Lt	Anthony Pawloski		Relvd of comd of Co and trfd to Hq Co, this Bn per Par 1, SO 36, Hq 23d Tk Bn as of 7 May 45
2d Lt	Robert L Downey	02 014 940	Commissnd fr Enl Status & asgnd & jd fr Co D, 23d Tk Bn as of 4 May 45 per Par 3, SO 99, Hq, 12 AD dtd 3 May 45. Prin dy assigned Tank Platoon Leader

CASUALTY REPORT FOR MAY 1945 (1 to 7 May) (continued)

Medical Attachment

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Changes and Transfers</u>
Capt	Herman Van Ark	04 814 65	