

AAR # 664 - U

AFTER ACTION REPORT

78TH AMD MED BN

8TH ARMORED DIVISION

**843-11**

Feb 45, May 45

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\* AUTH: O G 8th A D \*  
\* INIT: W. J. G. \*  
\* DATE: 18 June 45 \*  
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HEADQUARTERS  
78th ARMORED MEDICAL BATTALION

APO 258, U S Army

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AFTER ACTION REPORT

MAY, 1945

INTRODUCTION

SECTION: I PERSONNEL

II INTELLIGENCE

III OPERATIONS

IV SUPPLY

V COMMAND

1 A next: S-2, S-3 Journal

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
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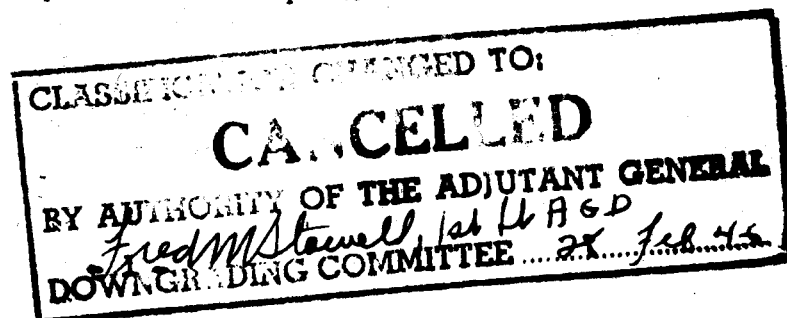
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## I N T R O D U C T I O N

The following report covers the operations of this Battalion for the month of May 1945. This month was highlighted by the unconditional surrender of all axis powers in Europe. Companies were attached to Combat Commands and after cessation of hostilities reverted back to Battalion control for training, administration and operations only. Companies have submitted their reports to their respective Combat Commands. All orders for operations were of a verbal nature and there are no inclosures of that nature. Since S-2 functions are also handled by the S-3, a combined S-2 and S-3 Journal is kept and is added as a part of this report.



PERSONNELI. Morning Reports.

- a. No change in procedure of preparation or submission of Morning Report Summaries or Morning Reports.

II. Losses and Reenforcements in the Medical Battalion.

- a. Losses for the month of May; one Officer transferred to 809th TD Battalion, four (4) Enlisted Men dropped from rolls while on furlough in U.S. Eleven (11) Enlisted Men lost to Evacuation Hospital as sick. Total losses: One Officer, fifteen (15) Enlisted Men.
- b. Reenforcements: Three (3) enlisted reenforcements received. Three (3) Enlisted Men previously lost through transfer to Evacuation hospitals returned to Battalion. Total gains: eight (8) Enlisted Men. Total strength at end of period: 33 Officers, 2 warrant Officers and 355 Enlisted Men.

III. Casualties Received, Treated and Evacuated.

- a. Casualties received and treated for month of April were as follows:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Remaining in Clearing Station from April report -	6	01.02
Battle Casualties	4	.63
Non-Battle Casualties	143	24.32
Disease	435	73.98

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Neuropsychiatric	0	.00
Grand Total	588	100.00

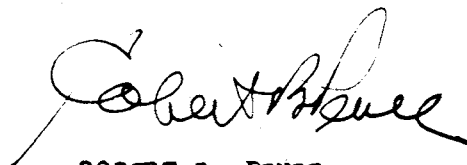
b. Casualties evacuated:

1) Of the casualties received, disposition for the month of May was as follows:

Number returned to Unit - 230

Number transferred to Evacuation Hospital, Field Hospital, Corps Clearing Station and Army Exhaustion Center for further treatment or died - 341

Remaining in Clearing Station - 17.



ROBERT B. PENCE  
1st Lt, M A C  
Adjutant

SECTION II

INTELLIGENCE

I. No messages were received pertaining to S-2 during this month. Upon order from higher Headquarters several documents were downgraded. These documents that could be destroyed were done so in the prescribed manner. The S-2 Journal is consolidated with the S-3 Journal.

OPERATIONSI. Movements.

- a. Headquarters and Headquarters Company were located at OSTERODE, Germany, during the entire month. Company locations are given in Paragraph IV to this section.

II. Operations.

- a. Companies A, B and C were attached to their respective Combat Commands during this month. Upon cessation of hostilities they reverted to Battalion control for Administration, Operations and Training but remained attached to Combat Commands for Medical Service. In addition to rendering second echelon Medical Service to the Division, the Battalion also assumed responsibility for third echelon Medical Evacuation. Also added to their responsibility was the Medical and Sanitary supervision of Displaced Personnel Camps. All camps at the time the Battalion assumed responsibility were lacking in Sanitation and Medical care. By the end of the month sufficient progress had been made so that these camps did not offer a health menace to surrounding military troops. The displaced personnel consisted of practically all European nationalities.

III. Training.

- a. Training memorandum #4, Hq 8th AB, was published and all Companies trained in accordance with schedules published from this Headquarters. The training week consisted of 32 hours devoted to



purely military subjects including Orientation and Inspections.

The remaining time was spent on Maintenance and Organized Athletics.

IV. Areas Occupied.

a. Headquarters and Headquarters Company:

1 May to 31 May 45 - OSTERODE, Germany (O 7450)

b. "A" Company:

1 May to 11 May 45 - BAD HARZBURG, Germany (O9468)

12 May to 31 May 45 - HENZBERG, Germany (O0042)

c. "B" Company:

1 May to 7 May 45 - BRAUNLAHE, Germany (D9851)

8 May to 31 May 45 - NORTHEIM, Germany (O5648)

d. "C" Company:

1 May to 8 May 45 - OLAUSTHAL-ZELLERFELD, Germany (O 7999)

9 May to 31 May 45 - DUDERSTADT, Germany (O7527)

DATE	:
1 May 45 to 7 May 45	: Companies attached to respective Combat Commands for Medical Service. Battalion given responsibility for medical Supervision and Sanitation of Displaced Personnel Camps.
8 May 45	: VE Day in Europe. Regular garrison duties.
9 May 45 to 31 May 45	: Usual garrison duties. Companies in training in accordance with TM #4, Hq 8 AD. Medical Supervision and Sanitation of Displaced Personnel Camps continues. 3rd Medical Evacuation added to responsibility of Battalion. No trouble encountered with evacuation. Companies reverted back to Battalion control for Administration, Operations and Training but stay attached to their respective Combat Commands for Medical Service.

## SECTION IV

### SUPPLY

#### I. Supply.

##### a. Battalion Supply:

- 1) A complete inventory of all items of equipment was made and requisitions were submitted and filled as nearly as possible. Usual supply functions took place throughout the month.

##### b. Division Medical Supply:

- 1) The Division was responsible for the supply and administration of all civilian and military hospitals in the Division area. Captured enemy Medical Supplies were used. A central dump of captured enemy Medical Supplies was set up at Osterode, Germany. Captured dumps at Bad Harzburg, Osterhagen, Göttingen and Hann-Münden were used to supply these needs.
- 2) The Medical Supply for the Division needs was taken care of in the routine manner and no difficulties were encountered.

#### II. Transportation.

- a. All vehicles of this Organization remained in operation and no transportation difficulties were encountered.

#### III. Roads and Circulation.

- a. The road system in the Division area for the month of May was very good and adequate for the needs. Circulation was normal.

SECTION V

COMMAND

I. The operations during this month consisted chiefly of occupation of an area of Germany, cleaning out the Harz Mountains area during the few days of hostilities and training. The Medical Supervision and Sanitation of Displaced Personnel Camps presented somewhat of a problem during the Battalion's initial days of being in charge. However, sufficient progress had been made so that no public health menace prevailed. The Medical Service, both second echelon and third echelon evacuation was satisfactory. Vehicles and equipment are in good condition and no serious trouble is anticipated.

By Order Of Lt. Col. MARK:

JOSEPH X. MEDWICK  
Major, M O,  
Executive Officer

OFFICIAL:

*Michael J. Gerharz*  
MICHAEL J. GERHARZ

Capt, M A C,  
S-2      S-3



.....  
: S E C R E T :  
: Auth: 8th Arm Div :  
: Init: M. J. G. :  
: Date: 14 March 1945 :  
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H E A D Q U A R T E R S  
78th MEDICAL BATTALION, ARMORED.  
AFO 258, U S Army

AFTER ACTION REPORT

FEBRUARY, 1945

INTRODUCTION

- |         |                 |
|---------|-----------------|
| SECTION | I PERSONNEL     |
|         | II INTELLIGENCE |
|         | III OPERATIONS  |
|         | IV SUPPLY       |
|         | V COMMAND       |

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- 1 Inclosure: S-2, S-3 Journal
- 1 Annex: Letter of Commendation

BY *[Signature]*

3 JUL 1945

14503



## I N T R O D U C T I O N

The following Report covers the operations of this Battalion for the month of February, 1945. Companies that were attached to Combat Commands during this period have submitted their reports to their respective Commands. Due to the fact that orders received by this Headquarters were verbal, there are no inclosures of that nature. Since S-2 functions are also handled by the S-3, a combined S-2 and S-3 Journal is kept and is added as a part of this Report.

SECTION I - PERSONNEL

I. Morning Reports.

a. Morning Report summaries were submitted from units through their respective Combat Commands to the Division G-1 section who acted as receiving and dispatching point to Division Rear Echelon. The personnel section located in Rear Echelon makes up the Morning Report from these Morning Report Summaries.

II. Losses and Reenforcements in the Medical Battalion.

a. Losses for the month of February were negative in this Battalion. Four Officer reenforcements were received that brought the Battalion to Officer strength of 30. These were critically needed Medical Officers. The enlisted strength was increased by four, bringing the total enlisted strength to 362.

III. Casualties Received, Treated and Evacuated.

a. Casualties Received and Treated:

1. Total casualties received and treated for the month of February were as follows:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Battle Casualties	150	20
NBI	95	13
Disease	476	64
NP	<u>23</u>	<u>3</u>
GRAND TOTAL:	744	100

b. Casualties Evacuated:

1. Of the casualties received, disposition for the month of February was as follows:

- a) Number returned to unit: 397.
- b) Number transferred to Evacuation Hospital, Field Hospital, Corps Clearing Station and Army Exhaustion Center for further treatment: 344
- c) Remaining in Clearing Station: 3.



ROBERT B. PENCE  
1st Lt, M A C  
Adjutant



SECTION II - B-3

I. MOVEMENTS.

a. 3 Feb 45:

1. B attalion left FONT-A-MOUSSON, France, as part of Toonerville column and proceeded to AMBY, Holland (591567), arriving there at 041700 Feb 45. Total distance traveled was 191 miles and total time was 30½ hours. Movement from 0400 until daylight was in blackout due to threat of enemy aircraft. No serious trouble was encountered enroute and unit arrived in good condition.

b. 22 Feb 45:

1. Battalion minus "A" and "C" Companies departed from AMBY, Holland, 220835 as part of Toonerville column and proceeded to HOLTUM, Holland, (K6674), arriving there at 1000. Total distance traveled was 15.5 miles and total time was one hour and twenty five minutes. No serious trouble encountered enroute and unit arrived in good condition.

II. OPERATIONS.

- a. "B" Company attached to OCB on 8 Feb 45 for Operations and on 21 February departed from AMBY, Holland, and proceeded to DIERGARDE, Holland, (K7678), and established Combat Command "B" Clearing Station. Total distance traveled 39 miles.
- b. "C" Company attached to OOR on 18 Feb 45 for Operations. On 19 Feb 45 departed from AMBY, Holland, and proceeded to ECHT, Holland, (K6980), and established Combat Command "R" Clearing Station.

### III. TRAINING.

a. Subjects emphasized during this period were the following:

1. Aircraft Recognition
2. Land Mines and Booby Traps
3. Radio Procedure

All Companies received training in these subjects. Arrangements were made through the 53rd Engineers to have an Intelligence Team from Corps visit our unit for purposes of instruction in Land Mines and Booby Traps.

### IV. AREAS OCCUPIED:

a. Headquarters and Headquarters Company:

- 1 Feb 45 to 3 Feb 45 - PONT-A-MOUSSON, France, (U7735).
- 4 Feb 45 to 22 Feb 45 - AMBY, Holland, (K5953).
- 22 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45 - HOLTUM, Holland, (K6674).

b. "A" Company:

- 1 Feb 45 to 3 Feb 45 - PONT-A-MOUSSON, France, (U7735).
- 4 Feb 45 to 22 Feb 45 - HSER, Holland, (K5850).
- 22 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45 - HOLTUM, Holland, (K6674).

c. "B" Company:

- 1 Feb 45 to 3 Feb 45 - PONT-A-MOUSSON, France, (U7735).
- 4 Feb 45 to 21 Feb 45 - AMBY, Holland, (K5953).
- 21 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45 - DIERGARDE, Holland, (K7678).

d. "C" Company:

- 1 Feb 45 to 3 Feb 45 - PONT-A-MOUSSON, France, (U7735).
- 4 Feb 45 to 19 Feb 45 - AMBY, Holland, (K5953).
- 19 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45 - EGHT, Holland, (K6980).

Combined S-2 and S-3 Journal inclosed as Annex "A" to this report.

SECTION III - INTELLIGENCE

I. AMBY, Holland:

- a. "C" Company reported suspected presence of a wireless radio in one of the homes in this vicinity. Report was made to C I C. Was investigated the following night and discovered that one of the occupants was doing typing late at night, although all typewriters were to have been turned in.

Combined S-2 and S-3 Journal is inclosed as Annex "A" to this report.

COMBINED 8-2 AND 8-3 JOURNAL

DATE	:	
1 Feb 45	:	Regular garrison duties, maintenance of vehicles.
2 Feb 45	:	Preparations made for pending movement.
3 Feb 45	:	Left PONT-A-MOUSSON, France, as part of Toonerville column, destination AMBY, Holland.
4 Feb 45	:	Arrived AMBY, Holland, 1700; total distance 191 miles. Total time $30\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Weather good. No serious trouble encountered. Blackout from 0400 until daylight because of threat of enemy aircraft. Vehicles in good condition, morale excellent. Men billeted in private homes and school buildings.
5 Feb 45	:	Usual garrison duties. Maintenance of vehicles and equipment thru
8 Feb 45	:	takes priority.
8 Feb 45	:	Ltr. of Instructions received from Division. Company "B" attached to CCB for Operations.
9 Feb 45	:	All Companies go into training with emphasis on Aircraft Recognition, Land Mines and Booby Traps and Radio Procedure. Officers class will be held daily at 1800 on Radio Procedure.
11 Feb 45	:	All Companies in training in accordance with Daily Schedule published from this Headquarters. "C" Company reported suspected presence of a wireless in a home adjoining this area. Report was made to Division.
12 Feb 45	:	C I C reported that investigation had been made of suspected wireless and none was found. Companies training and operating Clearing Stations and maintaining evacuation. 588th Ambulance Company attached for 3rd Echelon Medical Service.
13 Feb 45	:	Usual garrison duties. All Companies in training. Intelligence thru
17 Feb 45	:	Team from Corps instructed all Companies in Land Mines and Booby Traps.
18 Feb 45	:	"C" Company attached to CCR for Operations. Remaining Companies in training and performing T/O duties.
19 Feb 45	:	"C" Company departed AMBY, Holland, at 1200 and proceeded to ECHT, Holland, and established Clearing Station. Remaining Companies remain in position and train according to schedule. "A" Company now operating as Division Clearing Station.

DATE	:	
20 Feb 45	:	Remaining Companies in training and preparing for possible movement.
21 Feb 45	:	"B" Company departed AMBY, Holland, and proceeded to DIERGARDE, Holland, where Clearing Station was established after being attached to COB. Remaining Companies prepared for movement.
22 Feb 45	:	Headquarters and Headquarters Company and "A" Company as part of Toonerville column, departed AMBY, Holland, and proceeded to HOLTUM, Holland, "A" Company established Division Clearing Station. No trouble encountered enroute. Morale excellent.
23 Feb 45	:	Usual garrison duties performed. Maintenance of vehicles and thru
28 Feb 45	:	equipment take priority. Possible move in near future. Equipment in good shape and morale excellent.

## SECTION IV - SUPPLY

### I. SUPPLY.

- a. Combat losses from the previous month were replaced, both in T/E and Medical equipment for the Battalion, and in Medical equipment for the Division. No difficulties were encountered in obtaining this equipment.
- b. An inventory of all equipment in the Battalion was accomplished, and the shortages filled with few exceptions.
- c. In the operation beginning 26 Feb 45, it was indicated that contact between Medical Supply and Medical Companies would possibly be lost for a time. In order to overcome this, a truck, 3/4 ton Weapons Carrier, was filled with expendable Medical supplies and placed with the Medical Company at COR. No use was made of this vehicle, but it is felt that this Mobile Medical Dump would have been beneficial had there been an emergency.

### II. TRANSPORTATION.

- a. No important difficulties in transportation were encountered. One vehicle, a truck 3/4 ton C&R, was damaged in a blackout accident. This vehicle was repaired by the Division Ordnance and returned to this organization. All vehicles are in good condition, and transportation is adequate for the needs.

### III. EVACUATION.

- a. Evacuation was accomplished in a rapid and very satisfactory manner. Each Medical Company attaches an ambulance to each Battalion which it supports.

- b. In operation, an Ambulance Control Point is established between the Aid Stations and the Clearing Station, maintaining a constant means of evacuation at the Aid Stations at all times.

IV. ROADS AND CIRCULATION.

- a. Main roads remained in very good condition. Secondary roads were often muddy and traffic one-way in many places. Traffic was constantly heavy, but circulation was maintained.

V. SALVAGE AND CAPTURED MATERIEL.

- a. Salvage was very light, due to the few casualties evacuated through the Clearing Stations. No T/E equipment was salvaged. No captured materiel went through this organization.

*Warren A. White*  
WARREN A WHITE  
Capt, M A C,  
S - 4

SECTION V - COMMAND

I. Operations during this period were of a satisfactory nature. Only one movement of any considerable distance was made and weather and road conditions were generally good. Combat efficiency of this unit is excellent. No casualties from this command occurred and temporary replacements that were needed by First Echelon units were furnished. Evacuation, both Second and Third Echelon, was satisfactory. Vehicles and equipment are in good condition and no serious trouble is anticipated. Letter of Commendation from Commanding General, CCA, is inclosed as part of this report.

By Order Of Lt Col MARX:

JOSEPH X. MEDWICK  
Major, M C,  
Executive Officer

OFFICIAL:

*Michael J. Gerharz*  
MICHAEL J. GERHARZ  
Capt, M A C,  
S - 2, S - 3



MEDICAL DETACHMENT  
7TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
8TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 258 c/o P.M., N.Y. N.Y.  
30 January 1945

SUBJECT: Company "A", 78th Medical Battalion.

TO : Division Surgeon, 8th Armored Division,  
APO 258, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

1. I would like to take this opportunity of bringing to your attention the excellent work preformed by Company "A", 78th Medical Battalion in the support of this organization in the recent action around Nanning, Germany.

2. The ambulance crews preformed their duties in a skillful and courageous manner, often times volunteering for hazardous jobs not strictly within their sphere of activity.

3. Due to losses within our own personnel it was found necessary to request that the 78th Medical Battalion supply us temporarily with a number of litter bearers and company aid men, the men supplied, without exception were of the greatest help to us in the evacuation and treatment of casualties. The courage and skill they showed in the performance of their duties speaks highly of their training and discipline.

4. We could not have asked for better cooperation in the matter of supplies, our needs were met in a speedy and efficient manner.

/s/ Sidney Grau,  
SIDNEY GRAU,  
1st Lt, MC,  
Bn Surgeon

1st Ind.

CFC/fem

Hq CCA, 8th AD, APO 258, U. S. Army, 31 Jan 45.

To: Commanding General, 8th AD, APO 258, U. S. Army.

1. The work of Company "A", 78th Med Bn in assisting in the evacuation of wounded during the recent active operations of CCA is deserving of commendation, as it was outside of and in addition to their normal functional duties of clearing the aid stations.

2. The assistance supplied was invaluable in that it made possible the more prompt collection of casualties, thus undoubtedly saving many lives and much suffering.

1st Ind Hq CCA, 31 Jan 45 Contd.

3. The men of the 7th Armd Inf Bn were loud in their praise of the medical personnel who operated on the battle field in the face of heavy enemy fire. The personal courage and devotion to duty of these men may well set a standard for the Division.

4. I wish to add my sincere appreciation of the help given by the men of Company "A", 78th Med Bn.

/s/ Charles F. Colson,  
CHARLES F. COLSON,  
Brig Gen, USA,  
Commanding.

2d Ind. JMD:rjr  
HQ 8TH ARMD DIV, APO 258, U S ARMY, 6 Feb 45.

To: Commanding Officer, 78th Medical Battalion (Armored), 8th Armored Division, APO 258, U. S. Army.

1. The battlefield performance of Company "A", 78th Medical Battalion (Armored) has been brought to my attention from several sources.

2. I am greatly pleased by reports of this nature. They are indicative of the high state of training and esprit de corps existent in your battalion.

3. I desire that the men and officers, whose actions resulted in this report, be informed of my appreciation and admiration.

/s/ John M. Devine,  
JOHN M. DEVINE,  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Commanding.

3d Ind. PDM/frm  
Hq 78th Med Bn, Armd, APO 258, U. S. Army, 10 Feb 45.

To: CO, Co "A", 78th Med Bn, Armd, APO 258, U. S. Army.

1. It is indeed a great pleasure and my good fortune to have as a part of this organization, a company with men and officers, who under hazardous conditions and of their own volition, distinguished themselves by performing in a courageous manner duties not required in normal operations.

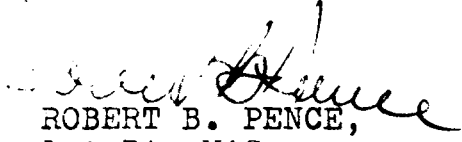
2. Yours is a goal to which is my sincere hope that others of this Battalion will strive to achieve.

3d Ind, Hq 78th Med Bn, Armd, 10 Feb 45 Contd.

3. Allow me to join with the Commanding General of our Division and the Commanding General of your Combat Command in expressing appreciation and admiration to those whose actions warrant praise from men in action on the battle field.

/s/ Paul D. Marx,  
PAUL D. MARX,  
Lt Col, MC,  
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

  
ROBERT B. PENCE,  
1st Lt, MAC,  
Adjutant.