

35TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, MECHANIZED
APO 35 - U S ARMY

Auth: CG 35th Inf Div

Initials *W.C.*

Date *22 May 1945*

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report AfterAction Against Enemy.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. In compliance with the provisions of Par 10C3, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized covering the period of 1-30 April 1945.

April 1, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized departed at 0630 from Kreul, Germany, moving five miles to the northeast, arriving at Buer at 0700. It was preceded half an hour by the first platoon, which was assigned the mission of providing contact between the 35th Division and the 75th Division, on the left. The platoon initially closed a gap of approximately one kilometer, using a formation of one section[†] armored car at each flank battalion CP, with the third section providing contact patrols over the open ground intervening.

April 2, 1945

The first platoon continued execution of the contact mission, providing contact along a line generally between Rechlinghausen-Suderwich and the Rhine-Herne canal, establishing final contact between the flank battalions at the canal at 1400 hours. This completed their mission and the Troop was ordered into Division Reserve.

April 3, 1945

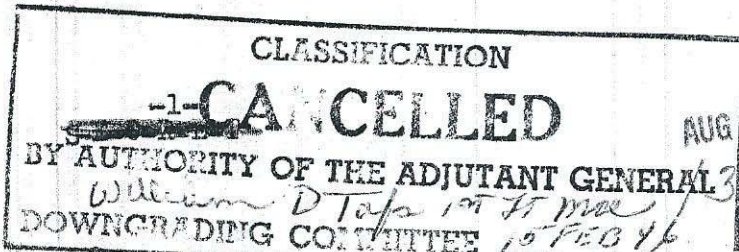
The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized remained in Division Reserve.

April 4, 1945

Although the Troop remained in Division reserve, six section leaders, of the second and third platoons, reconnoitered positions along the Rhine-Herne Canal in preparation for a forth-coming mission.

April 5, 1945

At 0700 hours the six sections of the 2nd and 3rd platoons, 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized, operating independently of their platoons, moved out to the previously reconnoitered observation posts, in six positions along the Rhine-Herne Canal, with the mission of reporting any enemy activity observed on the south side of the canal, which was still held by the enemy. O.P.s were located in upper stories of houses, damaged building and one located on the ninth floor of a destroyed synthetic gas plant, in positions from 20 to 200 yards from the canal. Initially in reserve, the first platoon was ordered to maintain 24 hour security patrols in the Division Zone, covering a 25 mile continuous circuit.



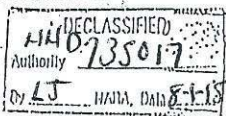
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April 6, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized O.P. and security Missions remained unchanged. One quarter-ton vehicle was temporarily lost when the enemy dropped a concentrated mortar barrage on the position of the 2nd section, commanded by Corporal Caskey.

April 7, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized continued their missions of operating O.P.s and security patrols, turning in valuable information regarding enemy activity south of the canal.

April 8, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized were relieved of O.P. and Patrol Missions at 1100, moving out at 1500 in two sections. The first and Second Platoons under the Commanding Officer, Harold C Walton, Captain, relieved the First Battalion, 134th Infantry, on the north shore of the Rhine-Herne Canal, on the Divisions right flank, and the Third Platoon, under command of the Executive Officer, 1st Lt Julius B Stombeck, relieved the Second Battalion, 137th Infantry, on the Division left flank, releasing Infantry elements for a dawn crossing of the canal.

April 9, 1945

At 1500 hours the first and second platoons were relieved of responsibility of first Battalion, 134th Infantry's area and relieved the second Battalion, 134th Infantry, in the center of the Division's sector. The Third Platoon continued to hold and defend their sector of the canal.

April 10, 1945

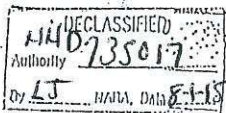
The Division, now holding the south bank of the canal, relieved the three platoons of their defensive position at 1000 hours. The first and third platoons set up 13 posts at bridges over the Rhine-Herne canal, enforcing a "No-Passage" line to prevent natives and misplaced persons from uncontrolled circulation in the division zone. A four man patrol, consisting of rear-train personnel, using an armored car, set up a security patrol, covering a 25 mile circuit in the Division rear area. At 1000 hours, the second platoon, now attached to 137th Infantry, which was rapidly advancing south, was given the mission of maintaining contact between the 75th Infantry Division, holding a north-south line five miles to the east of the 137th's line of march. In the seven hours the platoon traversed six east-west roads, establishing the fact that the intervening territory was unoccupied by the enemy and finally established contact between the 137th's flank and the southern front-flank of the 75th Infantry Division. Upon completion of its mission at 1700 the platoon went into Troop Reserve.

April 11, 1945

All three platoons began operating the "No Passage" line and the rear train personnel continued to operate the Security Patrols.

April 12, 1945

At 1200 the second platoon departed Ewald, Germany to provide security



[REDACTED]

for the Division billeting party on a move to the east, interspersing each section throughout the 35-vehicle column. The first and third platoon continued their "No Passage" operation and the security patrols were maintained.

April 13, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized departed Ewald at 0815, moving 232 miles to the east, arriving at Oebisfelde-Kaltendorf at 2000, taking 26 prisoners upon arrival at the assembly area. The second platoon, upon completing the security for the billeting party at 1200, was utilized to set out guides along a 34 mile stretch of road.

April 14, 1945

The third platoon relieved the second platoon as convoy guides. One section of the first platoon performed security detail at the Division C.P. while the remainder of the troop was in Division reserve.

April 15, 1945

The first platoon relieved the third platoon as convoy guides, one section of the second platoon taking over Division C.P. security. At 1510 the Troop, less the second platoon, departed from Oebisfelde-Kaltendorf, moving 32 miles to the east and arriving at Solchau, 15 miles west of the Elbe River, at 1720. The second platoon was engaged in securing a salt mine at Grasleben, Germany, which contained the entire economic and business records of the major cities of Germany, also records of German universities and museum pieces.

April 16, 1945

With a platoon of Company D, 784th Tank Battalion attached, the first and third platoons were engaged in clearing a 250 square kilometer area of the Born-Theerhutte forests. In the initial days operation the third platoon captured 140 prisoners.

April 17, 1945

The first and third platoons, after clearing the troops zone of enemy resistance, began operation of continuous motor patrols throughout the area, with the mission of taking all German soldiers in the area, checking all roads for Were-Wolf activities, and examining suspicious civilians for Army or Nazi affiliation. The second platoon remained at Grasleben.

April 18, 1945

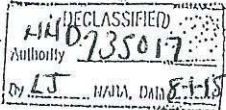
The first and third platoons continued daylight patrols on all roads, and night patrols on specified roads while second platoon remained at Grasleben.

April 19, 1945

The second platoon was relieved by a company of 102nd Infantry Division and rejoined the Troop. At 1300 hours the first and second platoons were ordered to set up road blocks along the Division's north boundary and delay, also give warning of any attack by German Task Force Clausewitz, which, with 5,000 men and

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75 tanks plus many half track, was lose in the XIII Corps rear areas. The third platoon took over all security patrols.

April 20, 1945

The first and second platoons continued operation of road blocks while the third platoon continued security patrols.

April 21, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized continued operation of road blocks and security patrols.

April 22, 1945

At 1200 the first and second platoons were relieved of road block mission and rejoined the troop, thereupon two platoons continuing the patrolling, one platoon remaining in Division Mobile Reserve.

April 23, 1945

35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized continued operation of security patrols with one platoon in Division Mobile Reserve.

April 24, 1945

While on a routine motor patrol a section commanded by Corporal Waseline, picked up two bicyclist in civilian clothing and brought them to Troop C.P. where upon being stripped they were revealed to wear a German staff officers' uniform. Upon questioning them, they admitted being Lieutenant-General Martin Unrein, Commanding General of Task Force Clausewitz and his chief of staff, Major Thomas. Otherwise, situation unchanged.

April 25, 1945

Acting upon a tip from a civilian, First Lieutenant Lewis L Crain led a patrol that surprised and captured Major General Heinz Jost, General of the Gestapo and Chief of the Intelligence Service of the Nazi Party in the area and organizer of the entire zone in counter-American Army activities. Other wise, situation unchanged.

April 26, 1945

At 1800 hours the 35th Reconnaissance Troop was relieved by elements of the 137th Infantry. After 11 days of clearing, securing and patrolling the Troops' zone, the Troop captured 428 prisoners, including the two generals.

April 27, 1945

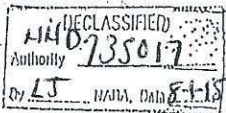
At 0830 hours the 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized departed from Salchau, Germany, moving 100 miles to the west arriving at Wulfe, Germany at 1300. The Troop became Division Reserve.

April 28, 29, 30, 1945

The 35th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized remained in Division Reserve.

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THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION DURING THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1-30, 1945:

None.

NUMBER OF MEN WOUNDED DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 1 to 30, 1945:

None.

NUMBER OF PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING PERIOD APRIL 1 TO 30, 1945:

514.

Harold C Walton
HAROLD C WALTON
Captain, Cavalry
Commanding