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HEADQUARTERS 636th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
Office of the Battalion Commander

APO 36, U S Army  
4 December 1943

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Records.

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division, APO 36, U S Army.

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in Letter, Allied Force Headquarters, dated 20 April 1943, file AG 314.7/389 C-M, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of Organizations, transmitted herewith Operations in Italy, November 1943 of this Battalion.

2. Conclusions:

a. It is believed that where a Tank Destroyer Battalion is available for attachment to two Divisions of a Corps front that it is excellent Tank Destroyer tactics to have a third Tank Destroyer Battalion in Corps reserve maintaining utmost vigilance and aggressive reconnaissance to supplement or reinforce the fires of either of the other Battalions in the event of an armored threat to them. The most suitable location for such a reserve Battalion is near a road net which will permit rapid movement into either Division sector.

*Van W. Pyland*

VAN W. PYLAND  
Lt Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

1 Incl:

Narrative of Operations for the month  
of November, with attached annexes

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HEADQUARTERS 636th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 36, U S Army

ATTN: 

2 December 1943

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, NOVEMBER 1943

During the early part of November, 1 November 1943 to 13 November 1943, this Battalion operated with the VI Corps and was in Corps Reserve near Pietramelara. On November 1, 1943, word was received that Company "C" of this organization was to be released from Special Duty guarding the Fifth Army Command Post, except for one platoon which had been assigned to instruct British Troops in the use of the M-10 Tank Destroyer. Company "C" rejoined the Battalion 3 November 1943, however, the platoon which was on duty with the British did not join the Battalion until 16 November 1943.

On November 1st, the Battalion dug into positions which they had occupied on order of the Commanding General VI Corps, in the vicinity of Riardo and Pietramelara. These positions were on the extreme left flank of VI Corps, east of the town of Teano, which was still in enemy hands. Upon the capture of Teano by the British and subsequent advance of the 3rd Division, the Battalion remained in these positions with the mission of constant reconnaissance for suitable positions to reinforce the Tank Destroyer Battalions attached to the 3rd and 45th Divisions and to continue to protect the left flank of VI Corps. Throughout this period, contact with the British X Corps was the mission assigned the Battalion.

Vigorous reconnaissance was made throughout the Corps Sector maintaining contact with forward elements of assaulting Battalions of VI Corps by the Commander and Staff of the Battalion. This reconnaissance of two division fronts for suitable positions for Tank Destroyers required long hours by all reconnaissance agencies of this unit. Intelligence reports were sent to Corps G-2 of road conditions and enemy materiel which was found in recently occupied areas. Among other items which were returned, were several anti-tank hand mines, the first discovered on the VI Corps front.

On 14 November 1943, the Battalion was assigned to the II Corps and attached to the 36th Division with orders to relieve the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion at the same time the 36th Division relieved the 3rd Division in the Mignano Sector. Reconnaissance was immediately made for a Battalion Command Post, and a Command Post was selected near Piccilli. Positions were also selected for the Destroyer Companies from which they could relieve the Destroyer Companies of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion.

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Plans were prepared and submitted to the Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division for approval. These plans were approved and on 15 November 1943, relief of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion was begun. By 17 November 1943, the Battalion had completely closed in the 36th Division sector and liaison with the Division established.

Plans were immediately begun to support the Division Artillery with indirect fire and the Battalion Commander prepared a recommendation for an Anti-tank Plan for the Division upon the request of the Division Commander. The recommendation was adopted.

During the period 19 November 1943 to 28 November 1943, the Battalion remained in the positions selected near Mignano, fired indirect fire missions which were given by the Division Artillery, and missions located by our forward observers. Our positions were subjected to intermittent harrassing fire and also a number of heavy counter-battery concentrations.

The S-2 section cooperated with the Shellrep Officer of the Division Artillery and the Vocal Counter-Battery Officer of II Corps, in reporting concentrations and probable locations of enemy batteries.

On 20 November 1943, Private Albert B. Anderson, 32767048, Company "B", 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, of Iselen, New Jersey, a platoon messenger, was seriously wounded by a shell fragment as he was carrying a message to his platoon Commander. In spite of his wound, he continued on his mission and completed it. For this gallant action, he was recommended for the Silver Star.

From 20 November 1943 to 23 November 1943, inclusive, the Battalion was credited with the destruction of one building, used as a German Command Post, four trucks, three self-propelled guns, one motorcycle, and one machine-gun. The estimated enemy personnel killed was seventy-nine. Of our materiel, a sight was damaged on an M-10 and a .50 cal. machine-gun mount was blown from another M-10, one 3/4 ton weapons-carrier and one 1/4 ton truck was damaged. All vehicles have been repaired and placed back into action.

29 November 1943 and 30 November 1943 were used in preparing plans and moving units of the Battalion to locations to support the Division in attacking the Mount Camino Hill Mass, although, later on the afternoon of 30 November 1943, indirect fire was placed on San Pietro Infine to assist the Ranger Battalion, which was attacking that area. Final plans for the movement and support of the Division in the operations against Mount Camino were to be completed at a conference, scheduled for 1 December 1943.

In spite of very disagreeable rainy weather, the fact that the Battalion has been in operations continuously since the initial landing of troops

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in the Salerno operation, and the difficulty of supplying suitable rations to the troops under combat conditions, the morale and spirit of the troops during the entire month has been excellent. It was possible to give the entire Battalion at least one hot meal on Thanksgiving Day, which included turkey on the menu.

During the entire period for which report is rendered, four men were killed in action and nineteen men were wounded in action.

Map Reference: Italy, 1:50,000.

Attached Annexes:

1. Copy of Unit Journal
2. Overlays of Positions
3. Personnel Casualties during period
4. Vehicular Casualties during period
5. Enemy Casualties caused by (36th AB Bn during period

For the Battalion Commander:

*Regan L. Durose*  
REGAN L. DUROSE  
Captain, Infantry  
Unit Historian

OFFICIAL:

*Regan L. Durose*  
REGAN L. DUROSE  
Captain, Infantry  
Adjutant

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ANNEX NO. 3

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

| <u>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY</u>   | <u>GRADE</u> | <u>ASN</u> | <u>DATE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u> | <u>PLACE OF RESIDENCE</u>                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <u>None</u>                   |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| <u>MEDICAL DETACHMENT</u>     |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| MADDEN, EDWARD J.             | Pvt          | 36735885   | 20 Nov 43               | SWA                     | 7481 S. Rhodes Ave.<br>Chicago, Illinois   |
| <u>RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY</u> |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| <u>None</u>                   |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| <u>COMPANY "A"</u>            |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| HAFENMAN, FRANK H.            | Opl          | 37146998   | 22 Nov 43               | KIA                     | 605 11th St.<br>Auburn, Nebr.              |
| SHOCKLEY, DELMAR L.           | Pfc          | 15104358   | 22 Nov 43               | KIA                     | 226 S. Walnut St.<br>Batesville, Ind.      |
| CRAIG, DYER C.                | S/Sgt        | 38038745   | 22 Nov 43               | SWA                     | General Delivery<br>Wortham, Texas         |
| THEILER, ROY A.               | Tech V       | 37146965   | 22 Nov 43               | SWA                     | Elsie, Nebr.                               |
| WILLIAMS, LONNIE S.           | Tech V       | 34333867   | 22 Nov 43               | SWA                     | RFD 3, Boaz, Ala.                          |
| JANIK, STANLEY (NMN)          | Pfc          | 36352080   | 22 Nov 43               | SWA                     | 2968 N. Ridgeway Ave.<br>Chicago, Illinois |
| KARIER, MARK N.               | Pvt          | 36358662   | 22 Nov 43               | LWA                     | 374 N. Avers Ave.<br>Chicago, Illinois     |
| MIKE, JOHN (NMN)              | Pvt          | 32285417   | 22 Nov 43               | SWA                     | 723 W. Court St.<br>Ithaca, New York       |
| THOMAS, WILLIAM H.            | Pvt          | 20816149   | 22 Nov 43               | SWA                     | Box 306,<br>Mansfield, Texas               |
| <u>COMPANY "B"</u>            |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| HILBERS, GERALD G.C.          | Pfc          | 37146528   | 2 Nov 43                | LWA                     | 711 S. 11th St.<br>Norfolk, Nebr.          |
| WARE, CLYDE N.                | Pvt          | 33204392   | 16 Nov 43               | SIA                     | Marydel, Maryland                          |
| ANDERSON, ALBERT B.           | Pvt          | 32767048   | 20 Nov 43               | SWA                     | Trento St.<br>Iselen, N. J.                |
| BYRD, AARON (NMN)             | Pfc          | 34333712   | 20 Nov 43               | LWA                     | Route 1,<br>Mt Vernon, Ala.                |
| FLORES, RUDOLPH Z.            | Pfc          | 38027457   | 22 Nov 43               | LWA                     | 1802 Comanche St.<br>Corpus Christi, Tex.  |
| SHARON, FRANK L.              | Pfc          | 31105053   | 22 Nov 43               | KIA                     | 1136 Ogden St. Ext.<br>Bridgeport, Conn.   |
| MARLOVITS, FRANK C.           | Pfc          | 33264973   | 23 Nov 43               | SWA                     | 706 Stanton Ave.<br>Millvale, Pa.          |
| TAYLOR, WALTER W.             | Pfc          | 33205877   | 30 Nov 43               | LWA                     | 501 S. Pulaski St.<br>Baltimore, Md.       |
| <u>COMPANY "C"</u>            |              |            |                         |                         |  |
| MAYO, DURWIN P.               | Sgt          | 38038972   | 20 Nov 43               | LIA                     | Box 56, Point, Texas                       |
| GALLMAN, WILLIAM L.           | S/Sgt        | 20815185   | 21 Nov 43               | LIA                     | RFD 2, Italy, Texas                        |
| CROWLEY, LESTER V.            | Pfc          | 31107792   | 21 Nov 43               | LIA                     | Huckleberry Hill<br>Unionville, Conn.      |
| HOOTEN, ALEX J.               | Pvt          | 38300239   | 21 Nov 43               | LWA                     | General Delivery<br>Cooper, Texas          |
| DAVIS, MASON R.               | Tech IV      | 20814939   | 23 Nov 43               | KIA                     | 507 W. Heard St.<br>Cleburne, Texas        |

ANNEX NO. 3

71

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ANNEX NO. 3.

PERSONNEL BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

|        | <u>OFFICERS</u> |                |            |                 | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> |                |            |                 |
|--------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
|        | <u>Killed</u>   | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>MIA</u> | <u>Captured</u> | <u>Killed</u>       | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>MIA</u> | <u>Captured</u> |
| Nov 2  | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 0                   | 1              | 0          | 0               |
| Nov 16 | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 0                   | 1              | 0          | 0               |
| Nov 20 | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 0                   | 4              | 0          | 0               |
| Nov 21 | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 0                   | 3              | 0          | 0               |
| Nov 22 | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 3                   | 8              | 0          | 0               |
| Nov 23 | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 1                   | 1              | 0          | 0               |
| Nov 30 | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 0                   | 1              | 0          | 0               |
| TOTAL  | 0               | 0              | 0          | 0               | 4                   | 19             | 0          | 0               |

ANNEX NO. 3

**SECRET**

-2-

72

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ANNEX NO. 4

VEHICLE CASUALTY REPORT

1 Sight damaged on 3 inch Gun.

1 .50 Cal. Machine Gun mount blown from M-10.

1 3/4 Ton Weapons Carrier damaged.

1 1/2 Ton Truck damaged.

All vehicles were repaired within the Battalion  
and placed back into action.

ANNEX NO. 4

~~SECRET~~

73.

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ANNEX NO. 5.

ENEMY CASUALTY REPORT

- Par 1. Total expenditure of 3" ammunition during period was 4,800.
- Par 2. Estimated enemy personnel killed: 79.
- Par 3. Damage to enemy material:
- 1 Building, German Command Post, destroyed
  - 4 Trucks destroyed
  - 2 Artillery batteries silenced
  - 3 Self-Propelled guns destroyed
  - 1 Motorcycle destroyed
  - 1 Machine Gun destroyed
  - 1 Attack plane destroyed

ANNEX NO. 5

**SECRET**

74



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CHECK POINT #3

BEND IN ROAD AS IT ROUNDS MOUNTAIN

CHECK POINT #4

TOWN OF CERVARO

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CHECK POINT #2

POINT AT WHICH ROAD ENTERS S. VILTORE

CHECK POINT #1

JUNCTION OF HIGHWAYS

CHECK POINT #5

PEAK OF SMALL HILL

BASE POINT

R.R. STATION AT JUNCTION OF RR. + HIWAY

A+C Δ

B Δ

OPERATION OVERLAY #23

HQ 636 T.D. BN APO #36

1630 30 NOV 43

MAP ITALY 1:50:000

TENATIVE INDIRECT FIRE PLAN

I. SEE ATTACHED PLAN-ANNEX #1

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52