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HEADQUARTERS
638th Tank Destroyer Battalion
APO 339, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

1 December 1944

SUBJECT: History of Operations for November 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

THRU : Commanding General, 84th Infantry Division.

1. Authority: Par 10, AR 345-105.

2. Introduction.

- a. Lt Col HAROLD L. DAVIS, O 359 292, FA, Commanding.
- Major JAMES D. MC CULLOUGH, O 227 185, FA, Executive.
- Major DICKSON G. HIPPE, O 297 133, FA, S-3.
- Captain RECTOR PARKS, O 306740, FA, S-2.
- Captain JOHN L. ROBERTS, O1 163 882, FA, S-4.
- 1st Lt FREDRICK A. KLEWIN, O1 822,585, FA, S-1.
- Captain RONALD C. HARMON, O 249 045, Inf, Comdg Hq Co.
- Captain DONAL I. MEDLEY, O 327 029, FA, Comdg Co A.
- Captain ALONZO J. GOLDEN, O 393 003, FA, Comdg Co B.
- Captain ROBERT R. KLINE, O1 167 072, FA, Comdg Co C.
- Captain DONALD M. MC AFEE, O 388 137, Inf, Comdg Rcn Co.
- Captain ARTHUR FORST, O 419 121, MC, Bn Surgeon.

b. Not applicable.

c. Period covered: 1 Nov to 30 Nov 44.

d. Maps used during period:

(1) 2 Nov to 8 Nov 44: France: Sheets No. 5 E/2 Beaumont Hague; 5 E/4 Les Pieux; 5 E/6 Barneville; Scale 1:50,000. Europe Road Map-Cherbourg Rouen 1:200,000.

(2) 18 Nov to 30 Nov 44: Belgium: NE France; Koln, Germany: scale 1:100,000. Germany sheets 5002, 5003; scale 1:25,000. Uncontrolled mosaic, Siegfried Line, GSGS 4414, Sheet 4, Geilenkirchen, Germany, 1:25,000.

3. Narrative.

a. Operations.

(1) 2 Nov to 8 Nov 44: Patrolled west coast of Normandy Peninsula from CAP DE LA HAGUE on the north to COUTAINVILLE on the south. Eight observation posts established (See Overlay) and roads patrolled. At 1430, 3 Nov 44 LT STOETZEL Rcn Co detained two French fishing craft which entered CARTIERET. Investigation revealed that the craft and its two occupants were harmless. At 0200, 5 Nov 44 two German prisoners who had escaped from CHERBOURG were captured by 1st Rcn plat led by LT BARROW.

(2) 19 Nov 44: Co A with 1st Rcn Plat were attached to 334th Inf Regt and departed for front lines vic PRUMMERN (K900645) at 1615. Bn Hq, Co B, Co C, and Rcn Co moved to vic STEGH (K872606) at 1430. Co C with 3rd Rcn Plat were attached to 333rd Inf Regt and departed for front lines vic HUNSKWEL (K873638) at 2345. Co B deployed in combat positions vic STEGH at 1630.

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(3) 20 Nov to 30 Nov 44:

(a) Co A with 1st Rcn Plat attached to 334th Inf Regt and deployed in vic PRUMMERN to furnish close AT support. Reverted to Bn control on 22 Nov, and continued AT support in assigned zone. Fired 34 rds HE and 4 rds APC at 6000 yds against a tower suspected of being an OP. Results obscure due to difficulty of observation. On 29 and 30 Nov Co A continued to support the Division attack with one platoon in the vic of APWEILER and two platoons in GEREONSWEILER. At 0530, 30 Nov 2nd LT JOSEPH F. SILENCE led a tank destroyer from GEREONSWEILER to LINDERN under enemy fire towing an ammunition trailer to resupply the infantry who were fighting to hold LINDERN.

(b) Co B held in reserve initially under Bn control in vic of STREGH moved forward to support Companies A and C on 22 Nov. Moved to indirect fire positions on 25 Nov in vic of SUGGERATH. No missions fired. On 29 and 30 Nov. Co B took positions in the vic of BREIL for indirect fire. Mission was to fire prepared concentrations on call. Also remained in mobile reserve to execute its primary mission.

(c) Co C with 3rd Rcn Plat attached to 333rd Inf Regt for direct AT support in vic of SUGGERATH, reverted to Bn control 23 Nov. but continued AT support in zone. One destroyer was led personally into position by 1ST LT MONROE S. HALL and knocked out a pillbox with 3 rds APC and 3 rds HE. The destroyer was about to shift fire to another pillbox when it was forced to withdraw because of mortar fire which killed the destroyer commander and wounded another member of the crew. On 29 and 30 Nov. Co C had two platoons east of SUGGERATH with the third plat in PRUMMERN. The 2nd Plat laid down a smoke screen and entered BEECK in support of the division elements which are still fighting for the town.

(d) Rcn Co performed route, area, and firing position reconnaissance and maintained OP's in division front and flanks. On 29 and 30 Nov. Rcn Co continued reconnaissance in the division zone and manned two OP's. Elements of Rcn Co are now in LINDERN and BEECK which are partially in our hands.

b. Enemy Forces.

(1) 2 Nov to 8 Nov 44. A German force consisting of elements of the 319th Inf Div., Engineers, Coastal Defenses, Artillery, AAA, Naval and Radar personnel estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000 is located on the Channel Islands of JERSEY, GUERNSEY and SARK.

(2) 19 Nov to 30 Nov 1944. German forces identified as the 183rd Inf Div and 9th and 10th Pz SS Divisions are operating in the 84th Inf Div sector. The area is part of the SIEGFRIED LINE. It is well fortified with numerous strongly built pillboxes inhabited by German troops. The enemy is well dug in, has perfect knowledge of the terrain, and can put effective fire on any part of it instantly.

4. ANNEXES.

a. 15 Nov to 18 Nov 44: Battalion motor march from the vicinity of LES PIEUZ, FRANCE to the vicinity of MARGRATEN, HOLLAND. M18's moved by rail.

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to HEERLEN, HOLLAND debarking on 18 Nov 44. Three M32 tank recovery vehicles moved by army retrievers to the vicinity of Bn CP at GEILENKIRCHEN, GERMANY arriving on 27 Nov. 44, (See FO #1, Hq 638 TD Bn).

b. Personnel.

- (1) 1 EM killed.
 - 7 EM and 1 Officer wounded.
 - 7 EM and 1 Officer trench foot.
- (2) 5 PW captured.
- (3) 4 Replacements
 - Hq Co - 1 EM MOS 345
 - Co A - 1 EM MOS 521
 - Co B - 1 EM MOS 531
 - 1 Officer 2nd Lt.
 - Co C - 1 EM MOS 521
 - Rcn Co- 1 Officer 1st Lt.

c. No Awards.

d. No command personnel changed.

e. Supply and evacuation.

(1) Ordnance.

- * ** 1 Car, armd utility, M20
- * **1 Trk, 3/4 ton w/c 4X4, 12 volt system
- * 2 M.G., cal 50 HB, flex.
 - 3 Mounts for 50 cal MG
 - 1 Cable, winch for 1 1/2 ton truck.

(2) Signal.

- * 5 Mounts, base M48
- * 20 Mast sections.

(3) Engineer.

- 1 Net, camouflage, 45 X 45.

f. Unit Journal inclosed.

g. Preliminary History of 638th Tank Destroyer Battalion inclosed.

Harold L. Davis

HAROLD L. DAVIS
Lt Col; FA
Commanding

Incls: 4

- 1 Incl: Operations in Normandy, West Coast.
- 2 Incl: FO #1, Hq. 638th TD Bn 14 Nov 44.
- 3 Incl: Unit Journal.
- 4 Incl: Preliminary History 638th TD Bn.

* Replaced.

** Evacuated or Salvaged.

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