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Auth: CO, 771 TD Bn
Initials: _____
Date: 3 Dec 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT

No. 1
From: 050001 Nov 1944
To : 302400 Nov 1944

Unit: 771 TD Bn
Date: 3 Dec 1944
Place: K913601

Maps: GSGS 4041, Sheets 485, 599, Scale 1/25,000
GSGS 4414, Sheets 5002, 5003, Scale 1/25,000

1. ENEMY

- a. None positively identified by our troops.
- b. G-2, 102d US Infantry Division, reported following enemy divisions, or elements thereof, in zones in which our troops operated:
 - (1.) 183rd Infanterie Division (Volksgranadier)
 - (2.) 340th Infanterie Division (Volksgranadier)
 - (3.) 363rd Infanterie Division (Volksgranadier)
 - (4.) 9th Panzer Division
 - (5.) 15th Panzer Grenadier Division
 - (6.) 10th SS Panzer Division
 - (7.) 42nd GAF Infanterie Battalion
- c. Enemy activity during the period was limited to a strong defense and small counterattacks, employing static defenses and armor.

2. OWN SITUATION

- (a.) See overlay and par.(d) below.
- (b.) See overlay and par.(d) below.
- (c.) See overlay and par.(d) below.
- (d.) 5 Nov. 1944 on Div. order, the Bn. (less A, B, and C Co.) moved to the wooded area E of SCHINVELD, and est. C.P. at 771642. A and B Co. remained in assembly area in the vicinity of KRUID. C Co. was attached to the 113th. Cav. Gp. and moved with one(1) Plat. Rcn. Co to take up positions for primary mission in the vicinity of GANSELET-TUDERN, and remained in these positions for period 5Nov.-14Nov. On 6 Nov. 1944 B Co. (less one(1) plat. was placed in direct support of 102d. Inf. Div. in primary positions in the vicinity STAHL-GIRATH-NIEBSTRAB-TEVEREN. One (1) plat. was placed in indirect fire position in vicinity of SCHINVELD. A Co. (less one(1) plat.) took up positions in the vicinity of FRELENBERG-TEVEREN-SCHERPENSEEL. 3rd. Plat. remained in indirect firing position from 6 Nov.-13Nov. firing night harassing and interdiction missions. Under cover of darkness on 7 Nov., B Co. took up firing positions in the vicinity of BIRGDEN, and at dawn on 8Nov. fired forty(40) rounds at a church steeple (possible OP) in the vicinity of Schierwaldenrath, which resulted in the destruction of church steeple. Using similar tactics of movement during night of 8 Nov. two destroyers of A Co. moved into firing positions in vicinity of FRELENBERG and at day break opened fire on enemy OP located in a large cement tower in vicinity of GEILENKIRCHEN, fired 42 rounds and destroyed tower. Movement of destroyers was covered by arty. fire delivered on known enemy positions in that vicinity. Arty cooperated further by laying down concentrations just prior to time TD's opened fire on the enemy OP. During period 8 Nov.-12 Nov. both A and B Co. (less one (1) plat. each in indirect firing positions) continued on primary mission in support of 102d Inf. Div. One (1) plat. each Co. continued to fire interdictionary and harassing missions on order of Div. Arty. Bal. of Bn. during period 5Nov.-11Nov. inclusive remained in Bivouac area in the vicinity of SCHINVELD. On Nov. 12 Bn.(less C, A, 1 plat B Co., 1 plat. Rcn Co.) moved on Div. order to an assembly area in and around HÄERLEN.

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On 14 Nov. C Co. plus one (1) plat. B Co. joined at Bn assembly area in HEERLEN.

During period 12 Nov. to 17 Nov., A Co. remained in direct fire positions supporting Div. sector.

During period 14 Nov.-17 Nov. C Co. remained in Bn. assembly area in vicinity of HEERLEN. On 16 Nov. per field Order No. 2, 102d Div. this unit (C Co.) was attached to 406th RCT, and left assembly area in vicinity of HEERLEN on 170745 Nov. on Div. order to occupy positions at:

- (a) CP--361618
- (b) 1st. Plat.--861618
- (c) Sec. plat.--889618
- (d) 3rd. plat.--872609

to act in direct Anti-Tank support of the 406th RCT.

At 171230 Nov. 1944 C.O. of C Co. (Capt. Beaver) was ordered to contact plat. of 702d TD Bn., then located in INFENDORF. Upon arrival C.O. contacted Exec. Officer, "B" Co., 702d, and was informed that 702d plat. there had two (2) TRs out of action and that assistance was needed.

Capt. Beaver of C Co. reconnoitered the area for possible gun positions; thereafter returning to his own CP. He was ordered on his return to his own CP to contact C.O. 380th FA; after making that contact, he was told by the C.O. 380 FA that his entire co. was needed in the vicinity of INFENDORF. When he returned to his own Co. CP he was met by Maj. Gilley (102d Div, Anti-Tank officer). All platoons were alerted for movement, while Capt. Beaver and Maj. Gilley made a further reconnaissance for suitable gun positions for the three (3) platoons in the vicinity of INFENDORF.

The positions chosen were recommended to the C.O. 406th R.C.T. and approved.

On 171800 Nov. 1944, Co. moved into the following positions:

- (a) CP 902626
- (b) 1st. Plat. --904628
- (c) Sec. Plat. --899626 (to be held in reserve.)

and held these positions until 181550 Nov. 1944, at which time 2nd. plat. was pulled out of reserve and supported the Infantry attack into APWEILER, taking up positions at Coord: 917630.

On 18 Nov 1944 at approximately 0830A, the 3d Platoon advanced to K918629 and took up firing positions there.

On 19 November 1944 at approximately 0700A, enemy armor consisting of 4 PzKw IV^s and 4 PzKw V^s were sighted at 918632 and taken under fire by 2d and 3d platoons, commanded by 1st Lt Killmer and S/Sgt Bertucci, respectively. All enemy armor was destroyed, with the loss of one (1) M-10 Destroyer.

On 19 Nov 1944 at 1100A, a counterattack was staged by enemy armor at about 906643. All TD platoons took enemy under fire from firing positions located at 918631 and 916632. Four (4) PzKw V^s were destroyed.

On 19 Nov 1944 at 1300A, two (2) enemy armored vehicles and one (1) half-track, with a towed PAK 38, were destroyed at 918635; the TD platoons being located in the same positions as above.

On 19 Nov 1944 at 1800A, the 2d and 3d Platoons, moved back into "ready" positions at 917630 and 918629, remained there until 200645A Nov 1944, at which time they occupied firing positions at K918631 and 916632.

On 20 Nov 1944, at approximately 1135A, during an attack on GEREONSWEILER, three (3) PzKw VI^s appeared at 916654 (about 3,000 yards from platoon firing positions) and were taken under fire by the 1st platoon, the plan being to divert attention from tanks moving in support of the 406th Inf Regt, who were staging attack on GEREONSWEILER. Enemy armor disappeared into a draw at 919654 only to reappear at about 915646, where they were again taken under fire. Direct hits were scored, but the armor was too thick to penetrate. Tanks were halted and remained in position while artillery was brought to bear on them. However, on 210700A Nov 1944, the Mk VI^s had been removed. (TD platoon lost two (2) M-10^s in this action.)

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At approximately 201200A Nov 1944 two (2) Mk VI^B appeared at K921642 and were taken under fire by 2d and 3d platoons. Again direct hits were scored but enemy armor could not be pierced. Action resulted in stopping of tank attack but two (2) M-10^B were lost at about 201600A Nov 1944. Four (4) PzKW VI^B later appeared at 913635 and were taken under fire by all destroyers which remained in the three platoons. Two (2) additional M-10^B were destroyed as well as two (2) PzKW VI^B.

At 201630A Nov 1944, all remaining M-10^B were consolidated at occupied positions at 917630 in preparation for enemy counterattack.

From 201800A Nov 1944 to 211300A Nov 1944 destroyers remained in positions at K916628, at which time they were assembled at 901626.

On 16 Nov 1944 Company B on Division order was attached to 407th RCT and established command liaison with the CG, 407th RCT. Company B was then placed on a two-hour alert status.

On 16 Nov 1944 Company A was attached by Division order to RCT 405.

On 17 Nov 1944 Company A moved into positions generally on the line FRELENBERG-WAURICHEN and remained in this area in direct support of the 405th RCT until 20 Nov 1944.

At approximately 201200A Nov 1944, 2d platoon, Company A, commanded by 1st Lt Duckwitz, was in position northwest of WAURICHEN near GEILNKIRCHEN road, when two Mk VI tanks emerged from orchard on east side of FRUMMERN at K902643. These tanks were taken under fire and destroyed with several direct hits, with no loss or damage to TD platoon.

On 21 Nov 1944 Company A was given the mission of supporting the attack of the 405th RCT on the high ground to the north and east of IMMENDORF. H-hour was set for 1030A. At 1000A the 3d platoon, under command of 1st Lt John Horton, left the assembly area in GEREONSWEILER and occupied firing positions in the locality of K925639 at 1030A.

Within a short time after taking up these positions, small arms fire w/tracer came from vicinity BEECK and LINDERN. Apparently these were ranging shots, for immediately following SA fire 88mm guns opened fire from high ground between BEECK and LINDERN and from southeastern edge of BEECK. Weapons could not be clearly observed, but appeared to be dug-in PzKW VI^B or 88mm guns (AA-AT). First round from enemy gun was a direct hit on destroyer of platoon commander, killing platoon leader and two enlisted men, by name, Lt. Horton, t-5 Decicco, and Pvt. Jebavay. Sgt. Hedrick assumed command of the balance of the platoon and delivered fire against the enemy gun positions, constantly moving in the vicinity of the original positions. A hit by enemy fire was sustained on turret of TD commanded by Sgt. Osipovich and turret traverse was jammed. Platoon continued fire against enemy guns until they ceased fire. Smoke was observed rising from enemy positions but visibility was too poor to be certain of results of TD fire. Entire action lasted approximately fifteen (15) minutes, and at 1045A balance of platoon took up positions to rear of firing positions and continued to watch for suitable targets, but none appeared.

During the period 14 Nov-21 Nov., the balance of the Bn. remained in assembly area in the vicinity of HEERLEN.

Company C was relieved by Co. B (one (1) plat, Rcn. attached) on 210900Nov. and Co. B passed to control of RCT 406th and occupied positions in area APWEILER-GEREONSWEILER. Co. C returned to vicinity of IMMENDORF for refitting and replacement of losses.

During period 22 Nov. - 23 Nov. all companies remained in static positions.

On 24 Nov. A and C Co. remained in approximately the same positions, whereas Co. B left five (5) TD's in GEREONSWEILER and moved six (6) to the vicinity of EDEREN, in direct support of 406th RCT. Balance of the BN moved on Div. order to vicinity of PALENBERG. CP est. at K85005995.

On following day, 25 Nov. A Co. moved to the vicinity of APWEILER, and remained in direct support of the 405th. Co. B moved one (1) plat. into indirect firing positions in vicinity of LOVERICH, and six (6) TD's remained in position at EDEREN, ENTIRE CG. passing under control of the C. Co. 407th. Co. C still undergoing refitting.

As of 25 Nov Co A (attached 405th) was placed under operational control of the 34th Inf Div for attack on WALK-1000. Co B continued in direct support of the 407th in assigned sector. No change in positions for the balance of the Dn. As of 26-27 Nov Co A reverted to operational control of the 102 Div. Co B fired seven (7) missions (indirectly) expending 90 rds. As of 27-28 Nov Co A continued in direct support of the 405th Inf in the vicinity of WALK-1000. Co B remained in the same positions, one platoon in indirect firing, expending 946 rds during 73 missions. No change in the balance of the Dn.

Co A remained in the vicinity of WALK-1000 during the period 28-29 Nov. On 28 Nov Co B fired 193 missions (indirectly) expending 765 rds. This platoon was relieved at 201730 Nov by the third platoon Co B. This platoon fired 50 missions expending 96 rds. There was no change for the balance of the battalion during period 28-29 Nov.

As of 30 Nov 1944 Co A occupied the following positions:

- 1st Pl. - - - - 916627
- 1st Pl. - - - - 944639
- 2nd Pl. - - - - 939638
- 3rd Pl. - - - - Combined with First and Second.

In support of the attack of the 407th Inf on the high ground to the North and East of WALK-1000. The following targets were engaged by the second platoon under direction of 1st Lt Buckwitz in position at K941643:

- (1) Armored halftrack vehicle destroyed on road leading from WALK-1000 to WALK-1005.
- (2) Pillboxes at 944640, 946444, and 949642, were fired upon using both A and M shells.

Pillboxes were forced to close up and cease firing, enabling the Inf to place demolition charges at 946644. Crew of pillbox came out to surrender and were shot by crews of nearby pillboxes. (All crews being German). All effect of M firing could not be brought against pillboxes because they faced generally Southeast and fire could only be delivered against the sides of the pillboxes. This entire action took place between the hours of 1100A and 1630A 30 Nov 1944.

Co B as of 30th Nov was in direct support of the 407th Inf. One platoon in position in the vicinity WALK and two in position south of WALK-1000. Platoon at WALK was on two (2) hour alert, being ready to move on call of the S.G. 406th to support final phase of attack on LINDICH.

3rd Platoon Co B remained in indirect firing position in the vicinity of WALK firing 243 missions expending 307 rds. Remainder of Co B assembled in WALK awaiting call of the S.G. 406th to give direct support to attack on LINDICH.

During the period 24-30 Nov, there was one (1) platoon from Recon. Co. attached to each firing company, (A, B, C.)

e. At the conclusion of the above period, the Bn was in a very satisfactory condition. Four (4) destroyers (M-10), had not been replaced, two (2) 1/2's (Tank recovery vehicles) had not been replaced; two (2) officers and twenty-nine (29) EN had not been replaced.

3. ADJUTANT GENERAL:

a. Status of strength of command and replacement needed.

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers

	Authorized	Assigned	Shortage
Eq. Co.	14	13	1
En. Co.	7	6	1
A Co.	6	5	1
B Co.	6	5	1
C Co.	6	5	1
Med. Det	1	1	0

(2) Enlisted Men

	Authorized	Assigned	Shortage
Eq. Co.	105	105	0
En. Co.	115	115	0
A Co.	124	113	11
B Co.	124	119	5
C Co.	124	108	16
Med. Det	15	15	0

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b. Casualties:

	(1) Officers and Warrant Officers				Captured	Missing
	Killed	Sick, Gassed, Wounded	Evac	Non-Evac		
Hq. Co.	0	0	0	2	0	0
Hon. Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0
A. Co.	1	0	0	0	0	0
B. Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0
C. Co.	0	1	0	0	0	0
Med. Det	0	0	0	0	0	0

(2) Enlisted Men

	(2) Enlisted Men				Captured	Missing
	Killed	Sick, Gassed, Wounded	Evac	Non-evac		
Hq. Co.	0	1	1	7	0	0
Hon. Co.	0	8	0	41	0	0
A. Co.	4	15	0	39	0	0
B. Co.	0	13	0	48	0	0
C. Co.	4	28	0	53	0	0
Med. Det	0	0	0	0	0	0

c. Prisoners captured - None

d. Evacuation of the greater proportion of casualties has been through Regimental Combat Team Medical installation.

e. Officer in Charge of Unit:

- En B.C. Lt Col David DeS Smith
- En ExC Major Frank E. Wilkins
- C-1 Capt. James E. Altemus
- C-2 Capt. William A. Paddock
- C-3 Capt. Robert J. Petersen
- C-4 Capt. Charles E. Graeber
- En Surg Capt. Louis A. Lobes

- Hq. Co. C.O. 1st Lt. Robert H. White
- ExC 2nd Lt. Walter J. Varner
- In C 1st Lt. Richard Woodard
- In C 1st Lt. John J. Wackler
- Comm C 1st Lt. Harry L. Kane
- Motor C 1st Lt. Joseph A. O'Neill
- Para C SMO Thomas E. Stevens, Jr.

- A Co. C.O. Capt. Weber G. Winfield
- ExC 2nd Lt. Frank J. Richardson
- Plat C 1st Lt. Albert H. Fuchwitz
- Plat C 1st Lt. James W. Flanagan, Jr.
- Plat C 2nd Lt. Robert E. Lee

- B Co. C.O. 1st Lt. Willard E. Barnolph
- ExC 2nd Lt. Max Ringer, Jr.
- Plat C 1st Lt. Stanley C. Wakild
- Plat C 1st Lt. Joseph F. Guerin
- Plat C 2nd Lt. Dean S. Knight

- C Co. C.O. Capt. Walter S. Beaver
- ExC 2nd Lt. John F. Monahan
- Plat C 1st Lt. George F. Killmer, Jr.
- Plat C 2nd Lt. Robert C. Lesley
- Plat C 2nd Lt. Preston E. Parson

- Hon. Co. C.O. Capt John E. Clarke
- ExC 1st Lt. Herbert F. Hallett
- Plat C 2nd Lt. Dan L. Crowell
- Plat C 2nd Lt. Milton B. Peoples
- Plat C 2nd Lt. William E. Morrow
- Plat C 2nd Lt. John C. Sturgis

f. Decoration awarded during month of Nov. 1944

Purple Hearts

- a. Officers 2
- b. EM 3

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G. Status of Supply:

- (1) One day emergency rations on hand
- (2) Full combat load of ammunition on hand
- (3) Two days supply of gasoline and diesel oil on hand

4. General:

a. Operations were generally successful during the period but were somewhat hampered by inadequate replacement of tires and vehicles.

b. Poor communication due to ~~###~~ age and extended use of organic radio equipment and inadequacy of T/O and T/E in provision for laying and maintenance of wire network. Operations with Infantry units supported could be facilitated by the addition of four (4) SCR 300 sets per firing Company.

c. The slowness with which vehicle casualties were replaced maintained the companies below maximum operational efficiency.

d. General morale of the unit is excellent.

David H. G. Smith

Lt. Col. FA. Commanding

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