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HEADQUARTERS
773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

5 June 44 T.D.
Date Initials

9 September 1944.



SUBJECT: Report After Operations Against the Enemy.
TO: The Adjutant General, Army War College, War Department,
Washington, D.C.
THRU: Commanding General, Third United States Army, APO 403,
U.S. Army.
Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 436, U. S. Army.
Commanding Officer, 5th Tank Destroyer Gp, APO 403,
U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with Per 10, AR 345-105 as amended by Change 3 dated 9 March 1943, and Per 2, Third United States Army letter, file AG 319.1(G-3)GMMCC, Subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After", dated 21 July 1944, the following report is submitted:
2. The information contained herein has been extracted from the Unit Journal of the 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion.
3. Report after Operations Against The Enemy - Period 060001B August 1944 - 312359B August 1944. All hours listed in this report are B time.

On 6 August 1944, Battalion departed Marshalling Area vicinity DORCHESTER, for the hards; entire day used in loading on LST's and LCT's. 4 LCT's loaded with Company C and 10 gun sections of Company B departed from Portland harbour for France at 1900. 2 LST's with remainder of Battalion remained in harbour overnight.

On 7 August 1944, remainder of Battalion departed Portland harbour at 0700. Company C and part of Company B landed 1245 hours on Omaha Beach at ST LAURENT SUR MER, FRANCE, (T68) and went into bivouac in Transient Area No. 2 at 1600 hours. Remainder of Battalion on 2 LST's dropped anchor offshore ST GERMAIN DE VARRVILLE, FRANCE (T49), Utah Beach, at 2200. Remained on craft overnight.

On 8 August, Battalion minus Company C and part of Company B unloaded at 0700 and moved to Transient Area B remaining on the alert for move. Assigned to Third United States Army, attached to XX Corps, further attached to 7th Armored Division.

On 9 August, Battalion minus Company C and part of Company B departed Transient Area B at 1600; arrived bivouac area at LA HAYE DU PUIITS (T18) 2200 hours. Distance travelled 35-miles. This was the assembly point for the Battalion. Company C and part of Company B still at Omaha Beach.

On 10 August, Company C and part of Company B departed Transient Area No. 2 at 0945 and joined the Battalion at LA HAYE DU PUIITS at 1450 hours. Entire Battalion departed this area at 2200 for ST ELLIER DU MAINE.(Y48). Attached this date to XV Corps, 5th TD Group.

On 11 August, Battalion arrived at ST ELLIER DU MAINE at 0730 after travelling entire night. Distance travelled 31-miles. During the march an air attack occurred at 2100 hours (T11) at about the time Reconnaissance Company and Headquarters is that vicinity. Two of Company B's tanks were destroyed during the march.

On 12 August, Battalion departed ST ELLIER DU MAINE, FRANCE, for the hards. Attached to XV Corps, 5th TD Group. BIELANS (Y48) at 2100.

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the night West of town on Highway N157. GENERAL PATTON commended all companies of Battalion at LAVAL (Y64), while enroute, for excellent march discipline. Reconnaissance Company continued to new bivouac area at COURGAIN (V49) at 2100.

On 13 August, Battalion minus Reconnaissance Company departed LEMANS at 1030; arrived bivouac area at COURGAIN at 1300. Entire Battalion departed COURGAIN at 1720, arriving MARCHEMAISONS (Q32 0184) 2000 hours. Distance travelled 28-miles. Security Section of Company C located about eight German trucks loaded with ammunition in abandoned bivouac area.

On 14 August, at 1000 hours Companies A and C alerted to combat German tank column in vicinity. Enemy column taken care of by Thunderbolts and Company B 813th TD Bn, so Battalion departed area at 1030, arriving vicinity MARCEI (U311095) at 1230. Distance travelled 18-miles. Billeting Party preceding Battalion in this move was temporarily delayed by tank engagement in MORTREE (U335070). Security Section 2nd platoon Company C brought in one enemy prisoner. Battalion departed 1710, arrived three miles Southeast of ARGENTAN (U266188) 1810. 1st Platoon Company A, 3rd Platoon Company B relieved platoons of 628th TD Bn at 1900. Company A platoon took up position one mile Southwest, Company B platoon one mile East. Company B also relieved a company of Engineers. (ARGENTAN still in enemy hands). By 2200, two platoons Company A with 1st Platoon Reconnaissance Company and Company B with 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company were in position. Reconnaissance Company secured these firing positions. Two platoons Reconnaissance Company investigated the town of SAI (U300186) and surrounding territory. One section Pioneer Platoon established minefield at road junction on main highway just North of BORDEAUX (U293190), removing the minefield, laid by Germans between town and highway. Company C with 3rd Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitered both areas and prepared to reinforce either. Elements 2nd French Armored Division moved into position in rear of Company A.

On 15 August, Battalion attached to Provisional Corps under GENERAL GAFFEY. No change of disposition of units. Some artillery fire on both positions. Two platoons Company A with 1st Reconnaissance Platoon who had captured two enemy, returned to Battalion assembly area at 1900. Company B assisted in capturing 42 enemy. Two platoons Reconnaissance Company took one enemy prisoner. Patrols from Company C plus 3rd Reconnaissance Platoon captured 24 enemy. Patrols from assembly area composed of men from Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance Company and Company C captured 20 enemy. 2nd Platoon of Company C went into position to take care of tanks reported Northeast of ST LOYER DES CHAMPS (U294139); withdrew later when report proved to be false. All Reconnaissance platoons were moved to Company B positions at 1900, since no infantry was available. Just prior to 2400, one company infantry, (reinforced), 90th Infantry Division, arrived to support Company B.

On 16 August, Company C captured five enemy at 0600, and seven enemy at 1600 captured by Pvt Conklin. Mortar squads and 24 men from Company C were sent to Company B to aid in securing gun positions. Company B still in position, captured 50 enemy with 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company. One enemy killed, no casualties. French doctor's wife reported her husband and other townspeople in SAI (U300186) held captive by Germans; asked that we do something. Reconnaissance Company ordered to clean out town. Made two entries, last one taking place at dusk. Rescued the doctor, killed two enemy, wounded three, captured 13. 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon brought in two women prisoners (German collaborationists) from JUVIGNY-SUR-ORNE (U298171). Company C patrol brought in three women prisoners (German collaborationists) from LEFORT D'AUNOU (U310161). The status of these women was verified as correct by G-2. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Companies A and C departed this location prior to midnight. Remainder of Battalion staying in position. A 1/4-ton vehicle Company C, overturned. One man seriously injured, two men slightly injured.

On 17 August, Battalion assigned First United States Army, attached V Corps. Headquarters Headquarters Company, Companies A and C arrived just West of ALMENECHES (Q400392) at 0030. Elements of Battalion remaining behind subjected to artillery fire. Reconnaissance Company joined Battalion at 1400. Company B remained in position. Company A moved into firing positions South edge of LEBOURG ST LEONARD (Q403464) at 1400. Entire movement and occupation of position made under artillery fire. One M10 lost by three mines. An attack on ST LEONARD was to be made about 1600. Company C was ordered to gain the main road leading into the town from the West covering the woods North of the road, the road itself and the town. Company A given similar mission, but on the road leading from the South into the town. Due to the blown out bridge and minefield Company C unable to execute mission in time, so moved to position of readiness at Q402428 and awaited orders. Company A left the road using trail to East to accomplish mission. 318th Combat Team moved into Company B area. Company C moved through ALMENECHES and LE-PIN-AU-HARAS (Q429442) to position of readiness at Q415457 East of ST LEONARD and established Company CP here. Two platoons moving therefrom immediately in support of 2nd Battalion, 359th Infantry, advancing to attack on ST LEONARD. At same time Company A with elements of Company B, 1st Battalion, 359th Infantry continued to move into the town. Very heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire fell on both companies at this time. 1st and 3rd Platoons Company A fired five minute preparation fire in the town prior to advance. 3rd Platoon Company A entered town. At 1930 3rd Platoon Company C and 3rd Platoon Reconnaissance Company with Company A 359th Infantry attacked ST LEONARD from the East in area North of the main highway. 2nd Platoon Company C passed through Company A positions and covered West edge of town. Company A knocked out five Mark IV tanks; two men killed, 12 men wounded. Company C knocked out one Mark IV tank, lost one M10; two crew members wounded. 3rd Platoon Company C rallied at Company CP at 2000. Six bazooka teams from Company A entered town to guard keypoints during the night. Intermittent artillery fire until midnight. Medical Detachment treated and evacuated men from 359th Infantry and 712th Tank Battalion, as well as 773rd TD Bn personnel. Enemy counter-attack repulsed at 2300. Pioneer Platoon Reconnaissance Company cleared point (Q411450) at which Company A M10 was damaged by mines. Tec 5 Horace Reviere and Pfc Raymond Dehon, Headquarters Company volunteered to drive truck into town and did evacuate wounded under sporadic artillery fire. Reconnaissance Company minus 2nd Platoon in assembly position at Q415457, vicinity of Company C's CP.

On 18 August, artillery and nebelwerfer barrage on Companies A and C at 0300. One M10 Company C destroyed. Three men killed, two wounded. One man Company A wounded. At 0400, 1st Platoon Company C returned to Company assembly position. At 0730, 3rd Platoon Company C moved out in support of 3rd Battalion 359th Infantry Northwest of FOUGY (Q402481) with mission of seizing Hill 129. 2nd Platoon Company C took up new position on main road leading North from LEBOURG. One Mark IV tank destroyed at 1100 hours. No casualties. Attack on reported tank position at 1800. No results. One man wounded. At 1930 this platoon moved to crossroad one mile North of town in firing position, in support of 2nd Battalion 359th Infantry. This platoon at about 2000 hours knocked out two Mark IV tanks, and probably destroyed a third. Company A remained in same positions throughout the day. One company of 610th TD Bn and one company 893rd TD Bn relieved Company B about 2100 hours. Moved to vicinity Reconnaissance CP and prepared for move forward in the morning. 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company rejoined company at CP at 1000 hours. 2nd and 3rd Platoons Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered area to the North, vicinity of FEL (Q415498) and CHALECIS (Q406513) with the mission of selecting routes, gun positions enemy tank approaches for Company B. Returned from this mission at 2300.

On 19 August, Company B plus 2nd and 3rd Platoons Reconnaissance Company moved out at 0630, to position one mile Northeast of LEBOURG ST LEONARD. Received orders to support 3rd Battalion 358th Infantry with the mission of securing high ground Northeast of CHALECIS.

3rd Platoon Reconnaissance Company returned to Company control at this time. 1st Platoon Company B temporarily stopped at 12-Foot Creek, which they succeeded in crossing shortly. Continued moving North towards objective. Enemy was causing infantry to withdraw. This platoon went into position on the objective and knocked out two tanks, two ammunition trucks, a staff car and destroyed a house occupied by enemy, and fired HE into enemy ranks. It materially assisted in capture of 400 prisoners. Thereupon the objective was definitely secured. The Company Commander personally led the forward elements of his company to the objective. 2nd and 3rd Platoons Company B following the 1st Platoon advanced to FEL (N) (Q41450). The 2nd Platoon knocking out one Mark IV tank. Midnight found 1st Platoon Company B on high ground one-half mile Northeast of CHAMBOIS covering Northeast exit of the town. 2nd and 3rd Platoons with 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company in position of readiness, vicinity of FEL (S). 2nd Platoon Company C in support of 2nd Battalion 359th Infantry, advanced to FOUGY at which time the infantry battalion's mission was changed. This infantry battalion supported by 2nd Platoon moved to crossroad (Q408478) one mile North to ST LEONARD and attacked North therefrom, at 0930 with the mission of taking and holding CHAMBOIS. Company CP moved to vicinity of this crossroad. 3rd Platoon withdrawn from support of 3rd Battalion 359th Infantry and replaced by 1st Platoon. 3rd Platoon was resupplied and joined the 1st Battalion 359th Infantry at FOUGY, then moved into position one-quarter mile Northwest of town at 1200 where it maintained this position the remainder of day. By 1600 the 2nd Platoon with the supported infantry battalion arrived in CHAMBOIS and made contact with elements of the Polish Division. This action was the final phase in the closing of the ARGENTAN GAP. Between 1800-2230 while covering the North and West approaches to town this platoon engaged in heavy enemy action. Large column of enemy were coming in town on North road. The 1st Platoon in position vicinity of LEBASFEL (Q406509) engaged in fight with enemy column moving East to CHAMBOIS. The heavy fighting of these two platoons resulted in destruction of two Mark V, eight Mark IV and two Mark III tanks, one SP gun and 20 other vehicles. Company A remained in their same positions at LEBOURG as Battalion reserve.

On 20 August, at 0500, 1st Platoon Company C (3 guns) in position on Hill 129, one mile Southwest of CHAMBOIS. After previous night's battle found itself flanked on both sides by elements of same enemy forces. Terrific firefight ensued, lasting approximately two hours at which time the platoon (now only 2 guns) out of ammunition withdrew to the Company CP via FOUGY. Ammunition resupply was unable to reach them while in position due to enemy action. However, Sgt Ely, Battalion ammunition sergeant, Headquarters Company, managed to reach crossroads vicinity Company CP with ammunition. Results of this platoon's action was the destruction of two Mark V, three Mark IV, one Mark III tanks, and at least 10 other enemy vehicles. Sgt Rabe, and Pvt Conklin while evacuating the wounded, decided to complete the destruction of their knocked out M10. Sgt Rabe made evacuation while Pvt Conklin returned to the vehicle, fired the four remaining rounds of HE into advancing enemy infantry at range of 100-yards; completed destruction of vehicle and made way back to platoon. Killed at least 40 enemy infantry. At 0630 the 3rd Platoon Company B fired on some enemy patrols, one enemy surrendered to 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company. He was persuaded by Lt. Schewe to have his comrades surrender also. This making a total of six enemy captured. An elaborate cipher device captured at this time was turned into Corps and flown to England for examination. At 0700 the CP, 3rd Battalion, 358th Infantry was attacked from the Northwest by enemy infantry, tanks and other vehicles. This attack was repulsed. The Headquarters Platoon of Company B knocked out one tank and one general purpose vehicle. Seven enemy killed, 25 prisoners captured. 1st Platoon Company A at 0800 ordered to relieve 1st Platoon Company C Southwest of CHAMBOIS. Lt. Sakellaris and S/Sgt Fleming met this platoon at Company CP to guide it into position. At 0900, before this platoon could reach its destination, it unexpectedly came upon a very large mixed column of enemy moving on Hill 129. This platoon took up hasty firing position 1000 metres Southeast of the hill and

succeeded in firing before the enemy did. A terrific engagement with all types of weapons firing ensued and lasted for one hour. An exceptionally large amount of enemy shells landed in the hedgerows but only one man was wounded. For the next three hours, during sporadic machine gun and small arms fire, and an enemy artillery concentration, the hedgerows and wheatstacks were searched resulting in about 900 prisoners being taken. The last enemy tank was silenced during this time. Upon call from the platoon, Lt. McMahon with a detail from Headquarters Company went to this position, relieved the firing platoon of these prisoners and took them to PW inclosure. Results of this engagement were one Mark V, seven Mark IV tanks, 16 armored cars, 19 halftracks, 8 motorcycles, 60 other vehicles, four Mininwerfers, 10 field guns, two AA guns and one assault gun. This TD platoon lost no vehicles but had two wounded personnel. At 1530 the 1st Platoon moved into position on Southwest part of Hill 129; knocked out two Mark IV tanks at 1830 and remained there throughout rest of the day. At 0800, 3rd Platoon Company C still in position just North of FOUGY observed a column of mixed enemy vehicles moving East on road approximately 1000-1500 yards North of their position. These were engaged by fire until 1130 at which time, even though enemy vehicles still remained, the platoon ceased fire at the request of the infantry battalion Commander. Results of this action were: one Mark V, 12 Mark IV tanks, two SP guns, five general purpose and 22 others. No casualties suffered. A few rounds of artillery fell in vicinity of platoon but no casualties occurred. At 0900, 2nd Platoon Company A ordered to position of readiness vicinity of crossroad, one mile North of ST LEONARD, prepared to move into firing positions anywhere from vicinity of Company C to 1st Platoon Company A. This platoon was guided by Tec 5 Barnes, Company B, through trails to Company C CP. Change in situation caused this platoon to move to CHAMBOIS where the platoon reinforced 2nd Platoon Company C in covering the North and West approaches into town. Platoon remained here throughout the day knocking out two Mark IV tanks. At 1000 hours 3rd Platoon Company A took up positions on ridge at East edge of ST LEONARD overlooking valley between there and CHAMBOIS with mission of firing on any enemy vehicles that may have broken through the other positions. At 1400 this platoon moved to 1st Platoon Company A position and covered its advance to Hill 129, knocking out two Mark IV tanks at this time, and then went into position at Hill 129, remaining there throughout the day. Company CP moved to crossroads North of ST LEONARD. Meantime, during entire day, 2nd Platoon Company C covered the North and West entrances to CHAMBOIS, engaged in enemy action almost continuously, this action finally dying out about 1700. Results: three Mark V, seven Mark IV, two Mark III tanks, three SP's, 27 miscellaneous; at least 350 enemy dead. Aided materially in capture of 500-1000 enemy. Most of this action was on the road leading from the North edge of town and most of the damage inflicted on the enemy was accomplished by one TD gun crew commanded by Sgt Schimpf, Cpl Bundle, gunner. Approximately three basic loads of ammunition for this vehicle was consumed. As of midnight this platoon was in same position. 1st Platoon Company C having been resupplied, with fuel and ammunition, and receiving another TD (total of 3 guns) moved to CHAMBOIS at about 1900 and further reinforced the 2nd Platoon of Company A and 2nd Platoon of Company C. Remained in this position the rest of day. Company C casualties for the day were one killed, seven wounded. At about 1100 Lt. T. M. Michaels and 1st Sgt Mickle, Reconnaissance Company, in the vicinity of FOUGY captured 13 enemy prisoners and turned them into PW inclosure. The 3rd Platoon Reconnaissance Company moved to vicinity of Company C CP to assist in repelling the reported breakthrough of the enemy in that vicinity. 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon in position with 3rd Platoon Company B vicinity of FEL (N) from 1100 through remainder of day. 2nd Platoon Company B remained in position FEL (S) where they had moved at 1100 hours. 1st Platoon Company B was in position Northeast of CHAMBOIS all day. Infantry fighting and artillery fire. In addition during the day, Company B captured 23 enemy and assisted in the capture of 100 others. One man wounded. The Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion S-3 went to Company A to pick up guide to 1st Platoon Company A, since this platoon was not known. Led by Lt. Michaels, they arrived in position Southeast of Hill 129.

Succeeded in capturing 40 prisoners and examined several staff cars for possible valuable papers. A few pounds of lime received from the enemy was returned by this party. Weather, clear entire day.

On 21 August, at 0630 3rd Platoon Company A moved to position 1000 yards West of CHAMBOIS in support of K Company, 353rd Infantry, with a mission of covering the ravine leading into the town from the Northwest and denying its use to enemy armor. No action. Assisted in taking hundreds of prisoners. Remained there all day. Company A minus this platoon unchanged as of midnight 30-31 August, 1st Platoon Company B at 2100 moved one-half mile East to new firing position still in support of 3rd Battalion, 353rd Infantry. Remainder of Company B, no change. No change in Company C positions; no activity. One prisoner taken. 3rd Platoon Reconnaissance Company withdrew from firing position and assembled vicinity Company C CP at 1200, remaining there balance of day. Remainder of Reconnaissance Company, no change. Weather, light rain.

On 22 August, all elements of Battalion engaged were relieved at 1500 hours. Assembled in area Southeast edge of ST LEONARD. Battalion moved to new area at CHAILLOUE (Q457537) and closed therein at 1810. Distance travelled 12-miles. Weather, rainy, cool. Reassigned to Third United States Army, attached XV Corps.

On 23 August, a review was held of the CHAMBOIS-ST LEONARD operations in which the platoons leaders and sergeants reconstructed their experiences. Comments throughout the discussion, and at the end by Colonel Jacoby, CO, 5th TD Group, included praise for the actions of the Battalion and the results obtained. Battalion departed bivouac at 1800. Weather, rainy.

On 24 August, Battalion closed into overnight bivouac, vicinity of BREZOLLES (R75) at 0100. Departed at 0700, arriving vicinity of BREVAL (R559324) 1000 hours. Total distance travelled 100-miles. Weather, rainy.

On 25 August, Memorial services for the Battalion were held this date by Group Chaplain (Capt) Charles L. McEachern, 0525795. Company B with 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company ordered into position of readiness East of FOLLAINVILLE (R602644), closing in at 1530. Travelled 19-miles and crossed Seine River. Mission prepared to reinforce the 813th TD Battalion which except for ~~one~~ one platoon was in firing position. The company with Reconnaissance Platoon temporarily attached to 79th Infantry Division.

On 26 August, Reconnaissance Company using all three Reconnaissance Platoons reconnoitered entire bridgehead Northeast of Seine between ROSNEY-SUR-SEINE (R542626) and MANTES-GASSICURT. (R600307). Mission to secure routes, position of readiness and gun positions and assembly area for the Battalion. One Officer, Lt. Wood, Reconnaissance Company wounded. Company Commanders and platoon leaders of the Battalion made reconnaissance of the bridgehead so as to be familiar with the terrain pending move forward. Remainder of Battalion, no change. Weather, good.

On 27 August, 1st Platoon Company B had two guns in position at FONTENAY-ST PERE (R632649), these guns being withdrawn at 2300 to new company assembly position two miles South of this town. The 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions attacked at 1600. Remainder of Battalion, no change. Weather, good. Both Catholic and Protestant Services held by Chaplains (Captains) James R. Meder, 0526803, and Charles L. McEachern, 0525795.

On 28 August, Company B with 2nd Platoon Reconnaissance Company returned to Battalion bivouac area at 1315. One casualty, accidentally killed, Reconnaissance Company. Relieved from attachment 79th Division. Battalion departed BREVAL 1430, closed into new area Southeast of BOURDONNE & LEHALLIER (R559324) at 1645. Distance travelled 22-miles. Weather, rainy.

On 29 August, there was no change in Battalion. Weather, rainy.

On 30 August, Battalion departed area at 1130; arrived BERNAY-EN-BRIE (S475203) at 2100. Distance travelled 95-miles. Weather, rainy. 35 MLC's in complete serviceable condition. Bivouac area swept for mines by Reconnaissance Pioneer Platoon.

On 31 August, Battalion in rest period. Maintenance of vehicles, weapons, signal equipment and personnel. Company C captured eight enemy prisoners armed with machine pistols, rifles and plenty of ammunition in shed adjacent to area. Weather, rainy. This concludes operations for the period.

FRANK G. SPIESS
Lt. Colonel, FA,
Commanding.

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1st Inf. LH/ep

HEADQUARTERS, 5TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP, APO 403, U.S. Army, 11 September 1944.

TO: The Adjutant General, Army War College, War Department, Washington, D.C.
THROUGH: Commanding General, Third United States Army, APO 403, and
Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 436, U.S. Army.

1. This unit has been attached to my command since 10 August 1944, and has been under my close personal observation and control since physically joining on 13 August 1944 until the close of this report.

2. I rate this battalion as superior in combat efficiency for the period they have been under my command.

3. In this period, at the cost of six (6) enlisted men killed, four (4) officers and twenty-seven (27) enlisted men wounded and evacuated, ten (10) M-10 tank destroyers damaged and returned to combat, and four (4) M-10 tank destroyers totally knocked out, this battalion, the 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, inflicted the following losses on the enemy: Nine (9) Mark V tanks, fifty-six (56) Mark IV tanks, five (5) Mark III tanks, twenty-six (26) self-propelled guns, for a total of ninety-six (96) enemy tanks and self-propelled guns; in addition they destroyed eight (8) general purpose vehicles, ten (10) artillery pieces, fourteen (14) AT guns, 156 other vehicles, and ten (10) machine gun nests. They captured 571 prisoners of war and materially assisted in taking over 3000 other Prisoners of war.

4. In accordance with Par. 10, AR 345-105, as amended, this report is forwarded with one copy having been extracted by this headquarters.

L. M. Jacoby
L. M. JACOBY
Colonel, FA
Commanding