

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

1 November 1944

SUBJECT: Report After Operations Against the Enemy.

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

THRU: Commanding General, Third United States Army, APO 403,
U.S. Army.

Commanding General, XX Corps, APO 340, U.S. Army.

Commanding General, 95th Infantry Division, APO 95,
U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with Par 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 dated 9 March 1943, 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 010001A October 1944 - 312359A October 1944.

On 1 October, Bn Hq, Hq Co. and Ren Co. (Hq Pltn) located in LUNEVILLE (095994). A Co. All pltns located at position 117017. 1st Ren pltn atchd, also at this position. Pltns continued on indirect firing mission until ammo all expended, at 2400 hours. Received very little enemy artillery fire. B Co. At 0615 the 1st pltn moved with the 2nd Bn 314th Inf and took up positions on the hill at 144023. At 1200 they moved again to the edge of woods at 153025, covering the roads to the North and East. During this move the pltn knocked out a halftrack, captured three MG's and two prisoners. At 0700, the 3rd pltn moved with the 3rd Bn and took up positions at 154017. The 2nd pltn remained in same position 160990. No artillery fire received. C Co. The 2nd pltn on request from the 106th Cav. and 315th Inf fired on woods at Q136037 (possible enemy motor park) from position Q124067 at 1715 hours. Results of firing unknown. The pltn withdrew after firing 10 rounds AP and 30 rounds HE and returned to their former position at Q118062. The 3rd pltn performed motor maintenance in LUNEVILLE. Weather, rainy and cold.

On 2 October, Ren Co. (Hq Pltn) moved from 095994, LUNEVILLE, to 098998 in LUNEVILLE. All pltns rejoined company. A Co. At 0800 the company reverted to Bn control and all pltns assembled at Co. CP 114007 where motor maintenance was performed. B Co. The 2nd pltn (160990) and 3rd pltn (154017) remained in these positions all day. The 1st pltn sent the 2nd section to LUNEVILLE to change tracks on the M10's. At 1100 the 1st section moved to 156045 where they could cover the road to the East which was the northern boundary of the 314th Inf sector. No action. The Co. CP moved to LUNEVILLE at 1800. C Co. The 3rd pltn still in LUNEVILLE performing motor maintenance. The 1st and 2nd pltns joined the Co. CP at BIENVILLE at 1330, then moved to vicinity of BIENVILLE (081061) on indirect firing mission in support of Troop A, 121st Cav. At 1700 these pltns laid on compass 1500 (Target: woods at Q143081). Fired intermittently throughout the day and night. Weather, unsettled, rainy and clear.

On 3 October, A Co. continued on motor maintenance until 1030. At 1145, moved South of BIENVILLE relieving C Co. on indirect fire mission. Concentrations were fired every 15 minutes throughout the night. B Co. Pltns remained in same positions. 1st pltn (160990), 2nd pltn (164996), 3rd pltn (154017). The 2nd pltn received heavy artillery and mortar fire. No action. At 1900, the 2nd pltn moved to CROISMARE. At 2000 the 1st pltn moved to 169052. C Co. The 3rd

pltn still in LUNEVILLE performing motor maintenance. The 1st and 2nd pltns executed indirect fire missions from South of EINVILLE into the NW tip of FORET-de-PARROY. Fire mission called for 555 rounds HE and adjusted by Troop A, 121st Cav. The Co. was relieved at 1230 by Co. A and moved to vicinity of CHANTEHEUX (114008) for motor maintenance. At 2145 hours the 3rd pltn in LUNEVILLE was alerted and moved to MARAINVILLER at 2215 hours where they went into position establishing roadblocks on the North and South edges of town. No contact with the enemy other than artillery fire. Weather, clear.

On 4 October, Rcn Co. located in LUNEVILLE (098998). A Co. continued on indirect firing mission until 0800. During the day, fired at assigned missions. B Co. At 0800 the 1st section 2nd pltn, moved up to the front line. At 1200 the 1st pltn fired six rounds to complete destruction of a disabled enemy tank. Wounded and captured two enemy prisoners at the same time. C Co. All pltns remained in position. No contact with enemy but were subjected to some artillery fire. Weather, cloudy and cool.

On 5 October, A Co. At 1500 moved out from positions South of EINVILLE and closed into new positions NE of MONCEL (163990) at 1715. Prepared for more indirect firing. B Co. and C Co. remained in same positions. No action. Weather, cloudy.

On 6 October, A Co. remained in position and began indirect firing at 1200. Lt. John O. Sharp, (Rcn Co.) reported to A Co. and acted as the forward observer. Visibility was very poor, but established BP and three check-points to form an arc covering the valley between MARAINVILLER (163992) and EMBERMENTIL (231038). B Co. saw no action but received heavy enemy artillery fire at the 1st and 3rd pltns positions. C Co. The CO and pltn leaders reconnoitered route of approach and positions in FORET-de-PARROY, general vicinity of 175060. The 1st and 2nd pltns in indirect fire positions. 3rd pltn in position at MARAINVILLER. No activity. Weather, clear.

On 7 October, A Co. - At 2300 the 2nd pltn occupied positions in MARAINVILLER, relieving 3rd pltn of C Co. The 1st and 3rd pltns remained in positions for indirect fire. B Co. At 0830 the 2nd pltn moved back to Bn maintenance area in LUNEVILLE, followed by the 1st pltn at 1130 to have tops installed and to mount the .50 cal MG's forward on the turret in preparation for the attack on 9 Oct 44 in FORET-de-PARROY. The 3rd pltn remained in position. No action. C Co. Captain Kelly, CO, reconnoitered routes of approach, location of enemy and positions for all pltns in the FORET-de-PARROY, and contacted all supporting units. At 2200 the 3rd pltn was relieved by the 2nd pltn A Co. Entire company in Bn motor park in LUNEVILLE for modification on M10's to have tops installed and to mount the .50 cal. MG's forward on the turret. Weather, clear.

On 8 October, Rcn Co. - At 1100, Lt. Fielden, 3rd pltn, received mission to contact the 2nd French Armored position on the right flank of Corps and get information of enemy to their front or East. At 1130 the Pioneer pltn was given mission to dig in a forward CP in the vicinity of the 79th Division forward CP. Pltn leaders and pltn sergeants of Co. C and two pltns Co. B made detailed foot reconnaissance in FORET-de-PARROY to locate starting positions for the attack and routes to follow during attack. Time and direction of movement of TD's and tanks had to be carefully coordinated since the forest was so densely wooded that visibility was from 50 to 75 yards. The plan called for using no roads or trails. A Co. - The 2nd pltn in same position in MARAINVILLER. The enemy shelled the pltn and vicinity during the night. At 0100 two M10's were hit by shrapnel but no serious damage or casualties resulted. Shelling continued intermittently during the day. The 1st and 3rd pltn remained in the same positions. Indirect fire began at 1100 and the Co. registered on three new targets, firing a total of 109 rounds of ammo, 105 HE and 4 SMK. 1st Lt. John O. Sharp (Rcn Co.) observed fire on one

target, a house occupied by the enemy. A direct hit caused the enemy to flee from the house. Ceased firing at 1517 hours. B Co. - At 1000 hours, the 1st pltn moved to 169053. At 1700, the 2nd pltn moved to 154045 in preparation for attack to begin the following morning. The 3rd pltn remained in same position. No action other than enemy artillery fire. At 2000, the Co. CP moved to a position (167051) behind the 1st pltn. C Co. - All pltns moved to positions of readiness for the attack in the FORET-de-PARROY. The 1st pltn moved to 173053, the 2nd and 3rd pltns moved to 170057. At 1830, Col. Spiess, Bn CO, and Capt. Blomquist, Bn S-3, radio sergeant and driver left the Bn CP in LUNEVILLE to establish a Bn forward CP at 152044. The purpose of this was for close coordination and command during the FORET-de-PARROY attack. Weather, clear.

On 9 October, A Co. - The 1st and 3rd pltns continued on indirect firing missions. Fired preparation fire of 300 rounds HE on woods and trenches between 0630 and 0710. At 1000 hours fired 41 rounds HE on house occupied by enemy. At 1645, Lt. Sharp (Rcn Co.), forward observer, reported unknown number of enemy tanks approaching MARAINVILLER from the NE. Visibility was very poor and firing was done by sound. 18 rounds AP and 60 rounds HE were fired until 1700 hours. Results unknown. The 2nd pltn received artillery and mortar fire throughout the day and night. One hit on a TD was sustained but no casualties suffered. B Co. - The 3rd pltn remained in same position as day before. The 2nd pltn moved at 0845 with the 313th Inf., advancing and securing objective at 1430. The 1st pltn moved at 0650 supporting the advance of 3rd Bn, 314th Inf., ko'ing one MkIV tank and assisted in capturing over 138 PW's. The first objective CR at 176053 was taken at 1500 hours with CT4 final objective, secured at 1730. This pltn led by Lt. Vargo and Sgt Chamberlain performed excellently under very trying terrain conditions. One M10 was ko'd by enemy fire at 0845 but was back in action by 1800. Captain Singer, Bn Surgeon, remained in vicinity of B and C Companies CP during the attack. C Co. - At 0630 the 1st pltn in position 173053 in support of 3rd Bn, 315th Inf. 2nd and 3rd pltns in position (170057) with 2nd pltn in support of 2nd Bn, 315th Inf., and 3rd pltn as Regimental reserve. Tanks from Co. C, 749th Tank Bn also in support. At 0650, the 1st pltn moved to attack CR 176053 but was halted by heavy HE fire at 0715 and fell back to 174052. At this position one M10 commanded by Sgt Rabe was hit and set afire causing two casualties, Sgt Rabe and Tec 5 Peabody. The other three members of the crew were missing. The 2nd pltn moved to attack at 0700 meeting heavy mortar and automatic fire. Despite this, the initial objective was reached by 0800, continuing from there to final objective at 178058. Two LWA casualties were suffered. The 3rd pltn was committed at 1030 moving to 173060 with fields of fire to the East and South. At 1630 a (estimated) M1VI tank was observed but fire could not be brought upon it. The 2nd pltn fired on a MkIV tank at 1630 immobilizing it and infantry bazooka teams closed in on damaged tank. At 1730, the 2nd pltn advance ceased due to terrain and it withdrew to a rally position with the 3rd pltn at 173060. The 1st pltn (atchd) to 1st Bn, 315th Inf. in position at 182060. Between 0700 and 1600, the 2nd pltn destroyed four MG nests and took 10 PW's, killing or wounding 75 to 100 infantrymen. The Bn forward CP at 152044 was closed at 1900 hours and returned to Bn CP in LUNEVILLE. Weather, clear in morning. Rain started at 1500 and continued throughout day and night.

10 October, Rcn Co. - At 1330 the Pioneer pltn received mission to prepare bridge destroyed by German demolition, leading to town of MANONVILLER. The 3rd Rcn pltn covered them while they prepared bridge with what material was available and returned to CP at 1800. The 3rd pltn remained there until 1930 when they received orders to return to CP. At 1330, the 1st pltn received mission to reconnoiter and secure the high ground North of MANONVILLER for A Co. At 1600, the 2nd pltn left the company to reconnoiter gun positions East of LA NEUVILLE and found the town heavily mined and booby-trapped. The mission was completed by 1900 and pltn released by Captain Kelly, CO, Co. C, to return to their Co. CP. A Co. - All pltns remained in same positions. 1st and 3rd pltns registered on BP at 1150 firing 7 rounds each. Ceased firing at 1210.

B. Co. - No change. 1st pltn in LUNEVILLE performing motor maintenance. C Co. - Co. sector very quiet for the last 24 hours. Captain John D. Singer, Bn Surgeon, verified fact that three distinct body fragments were left in the burned M10 of 1st pltn (knocked out TD of Sgt Rabe on 9 Oct 44). Survivors' statements also verified that Cpl Helums, Pfc Harris and Pvt Owens were burned to death in the TD. Weather, intermittent rain.

On 11 October, A Co. - At 2000 hours, the 1st and 3rd pltns moved to new positions at MANONVILLER. 2nd pltn, no change. Everything quiet during the day and night. B Co. - At 1100 the 2nd and 3rd pltns returned to LUNEVILLE for motor maintenance. C Co. - Co. alerted at 1400 hours to support 313th Inf. Regt. in vicinity of LA NEUVEVILLE-AUX-BOIX. Foot reconnaissance made by CO and 2nd and 3rd pltn leaders. 2nd pltn went into position at 199022 and 3rd pltn at 203017 in support of 1st Bn, 313th Inf. CP and 1st pltn at 195014. Weather, cloudy.

On 12 October, Rcn Co. - At 0600, the 3rd pltn was atchd to A Co. A Co. - Co. CP moved to MARIONVILLER (160993) at 0800. The 1st pltn in support of 3rd Bn, 314th Inf. moved into position NE of MANONVILLER (209002) being held up temporarily while mines were cleared. The 2nd pltn in position in MANONVILLER (200989). 3rd pltn with the 1st Rcn pltn in support of 1st Bn, 314th Inf. moved into position east of MANONVILLER at 215995, also being held up temporarily on route of march while mines were cleared. Co. or parts thereof have been constantly employed or opposed to enemy action for 31 days. B Co. - Co. still in LUNEVILLE performing motor maintenance. C Co. - Co. supporting the 313th Inf Regt. The CP plus 1st pltn moved to MARAINVILLER at 1215 hours. The CO and 2nd and 3rd pltn leaders reconnoitered positions in advance of those of previous day. The division engineers cleared a path through mines to new positions permitting both platoons to occupy the new positions at 1900 hours. The 2nd pltn occupied positions at 209027 and trail at 207026. 3rd pltn occupied position at 205015. During the day the 2nd pltn received some enemy artillery fire. At 1400 hours, Major General Haislip, CG, XV Corps, presented the following awards to members of this Bn: Five silver stars (1 Officer & 4 EM) and 34 bronze stars (6 Offs & 28 EM). Weather, cloudy, rain in afternoon.

On 13 October, on order from XV Corps effective 151200A October 44, the Bn was relieved from attachment to 79th Inf. Division and reverted to Corps reserve in LUNEVILLE. The Bn was alerted for movement not later than 15 October. Rcn Co. - The 3rd pltn was relieved from C Co. at 0900 and returned to Co. CP. 1st pltn returned to Co. CP at 1900 hours. A Co. - Co. CP moved to LUNEVILLE at 0930, vicinity of XV Corps rear. The 2nd pltn moved to same location at 1000 hours. The 1st and 3rd pltns in position were relieved at 1830 hours by the 813th TD Bn and returned to LUNEVILLE. B Co. - Co. located at Bn motor maintenance area in LUNEVILLE. C Co. - Co. continued in support of 313th Inf. Regt. Early morning patrols revealed that EMBERMENIL and vicinity was lightly held by the enemy. At 1300, the division attack was launched. At 1330, the 1st pltn (reserve) moved to position of readiness SW of NEUVEVILLE (193013). The 3rd pltn in support of 1st Bn, 313th Inf. remained at 205015, covering the infantry's advance. The 2nd pltn in support of the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf. moved to 223036 and covered their advance. At 2130, the Co. was withdrawn, having been relieved by the 813th TD Bn and assembled in LUNEVILLE. Weather, rainy.

On 14 October, all companies were assembled in LUNEVILLE performing motor maintenance and changing tracks on M10's. Completed changing of tracks. Weather, cloudy and rainy.

On 15 October, Col. JACOBY, CO, 5th TD Gp, presented letters of commendation to all company commanders for all officers and men of their companies for their excellent performance of duties from 13 August 1944 to 15 October 1944, while atchd to 5th TD Gp. Companies still bivouaced in LUNEVILLE, preparing for move. Weather, cloudy and rainy.

On 16 October, at 0800, the Bn departed LUNEVILLE and closed in vicinity of JARNY(658609) at 1500 hours. Distance travelled 85-miles. 35 serviceable M10's. Weather, cloudy and rainy. Bn returned to Third United States Army control, atchd to XX Corps, further atchd to 4th TD Gp.

On 17 October, Bn departed vicinity of JARNY(658609) at 1530 and closed in at 1810 hours in TUCQUEGNIEUX(658801). Travelled 17 miles. Weather, cloudy and rainy.

From 18 October thru 24 October, the Bn bivouaced in TUCQUEGNIEUX and vicinity. All companies performed motor, weapons and personnel maintenance. Weather for period: Cloudy and rainy.

On 25 October, Bn atchd to 95th Inf. Div. as of 0001. Bn moved from TUCQUEGNIEUX at 0900 hours closing into Bn assembly area at 700400, vicinity of VIEVILLE-en-HAYE at 1315 hours. Distance travelled 48-miles. A Co. - with mission of relieving elements of 705th TD Bn continued and moved to vicinity of LORRY. Co. CP closed in at 79454475 at 1650 hours. All pltns closed in and completed relief by 1800 hours in direct firing positions at : 1st pltn 30404550; 2nd pltn 80204450; 3rd pltn 82604450. B Co. - 1st pltn continued and moved across the MOZELLE River at 1530 hours, closing in and effecting relief of 3rd pltn A Co., 818th TD Bn by 1620 hours at 7564423. C Co. - Co. assembled South of ARRY while pltn leaders made reconnaissance. At 1700 hours all pltns effected the relief as follows: Direct fire positions: 1st pltn relieved 2nd pltn Co. A, 774th TD Bn at 1445 hours; in indirect fire position, 2nd pltn relieved 3rd pltn Co. A, 774th TD Bn at 1445 hours in support of 359th FA Bn; in direct fire positions, 3rd pltn relieved 1st pltn Co. A, 774th TD Bn at 1445 hours. Co. CP at 76654522; 1st pltn at 77354862, 77514789, 77204787, 77154781; 2nd pltn at 77914527 to 78004519; 3rd pltn at 77354623, 77364624 and 77514622. Weather, cloudy and cool.

On 26 October, Bn Hqs moved from assembly area at U695404 vicinity of VIEVILLE at 0900 closing into temporary CP at ARRY(U773404) at 0945 hours. CP then moved from ARRY to U76604504 closing in completely at 1500 hours. Total distance travelled 11-miles. Hq Co. and Rcn Co. no change. A Co. - No change except 2nd pltn located at 79904450. 1st and 3rd pltns received harrassing artillery and mortar fire throughout the day and night. B Co. - Completed relief of Co. A, 818th TD Bn at 0930 hours with mission of supporting 358th FA Bn. The 2nd pltn registered by sound and flash at 1920 hours. Six observed and seven unobserved missions were fired during the day, expending 98 rounds. (84 HE and 14 SMK). C Co. - At 1120 hours the 2nd pltn registered on BP 79385195 firing 4 rounds HE and 10 SMK. At 2000 hours, concentration N-6 (82274830) fired. 12 rounds HE. (Battery 3 rounds). Concentrations fired intermittently 6C(84665230) 10 rounds; 7C (85295144) 6 rounds; 4C (86025300) 10 rounds; 10C (84785048) 10 rounds. 2 guns, one round each time. Weather, cloudy and cool.

On 27 October, Rcn Co. - At 0930 the Pioneer pltn received mission to improve gun positions of C Co. Completed mission and returned to CP at 1530 hours. A Co. - CP and pltns no change. 1st and 3rd pltns received intermittent artillery and mortar shelling during the day and night. Animals and dogs being used by enemy on dismounted patrols, operating in vicinity of 3rd pltn. B Co. - During the day fired one observed and two unobserved fire missions. Total rounds fired, 64 HE. C Co.-At 0615, 2nd pltn fired battery rounds TOT concentration on N6 (82264828) Sabre Farm. Starting at 1100 hours, the 2nd pltn will fire intermittent missions on the following points, 3C (83845346), 4C (86025309), 5C (84325262), 10C(94785048). Weather, cloudy and cool.

On 28 October, Rcn Co. - Co.(less 1st pltn) no change. 1st pltn atchd to A Co, at 0900. At 1030, 1 section of Pioneers left CP and proceeded to A Co. position and improved gun positions. Also destroyed one enemy dud by exploding. A Co. - Co. CP and pltns remained in same position. 1st and 3rd pltns received enemy artillery

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L


and mortar fire. 1st Rcn pltn reported to company and joined the 3rd pltn for outpost mission. B. Co. - All pltns registered by 1200 hours. Co. had 23 missions during 24-hour period. C Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns no change. 2nd pltn continued on harrassing, indirect fire mission during darkness hours, and received some close enemy shelling. Two EM hit by fragments but suffered no wounds or injuries. Weather, clear.

On 29 October, A. Co. - No change in positions. 1st Rcn pltn still atchd to 3rd pltn. 1st and 3rd pltns received enemy artillery and mortar fire. 2nd pltn received several rounds of enemy artillery fire. New direct fire positions were reconnoitered in preparation for tank attack, by 1st and 3rd pltns. B Co. - Co. fired eight observed and 15 unobserved fire missions during the daylight hours, expending 150 rounds. C. Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns no change (except 1st pltn now has 4 guns). 2nd platoon continues to support 359th FA Bn, firing 22 rounds 3" HE and 7 SMK, observed fire, on concentration H2 (8281-5260 enemy work party). Fired 12 rounds HE and three SMK, observed fire on concentration H3 (8050-4964 enemy activity around house). No other change. Weather, clear.

On 30 October, A Co. - No change except 3rd pltn moved to new position at U83004405, closing in at 1730 hours. Again all pltns received some artillery and mortar fire, but no casualties suffered. 1st Rcn pltn in position with 3rd pltn. B Co. - Co. fired one observed and 11 unobserved fire missions. Total rounds expended 103. C. Co. - Enemy activity and suspected armored movement reported in CORNY by A Co, 774th TD Bn at 0330, and again at 0530 hours. At dawn (0600) all pltns alerted fully for possible enemy thrust S along MOSELLE River. Estimated enemy capabilities were one Infantry Regt. with armored support. No developments. 2nd pltn fired following missions at 1430 hours. Concentration H4, 4 rounds HE and 1 SMK; 1600 hours, concentration H3, 7 rounds HE and 2 SMK; 1922 hours concentration TOT, 8 rounds HE. Weather, cloudy.

On 31 October, A Co. - No change. Pltns receiving intermittent enemy shelling. B. Co. - Co. fired 19 missions during the day and night. Fired 113 rounds HE and 6 SMK. C. Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns, no change. 2nd pltn fired the following missions during the day. Concentration H3 (80094987) 1 round HE, 3 SMK (enemy work party). Concentration H-6 (81274980) 11 rounds HE, 3 SMK (suspected enemy). Concentration H-7 (812494) 5 rounds HE, 1 SMK (mortars). Concentration H-5 (82185038) 42 rounds HE, 8 SMK (Enemy CP). Weather, cloudy.

This concludes operations for the period.


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