

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
801st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY



2 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

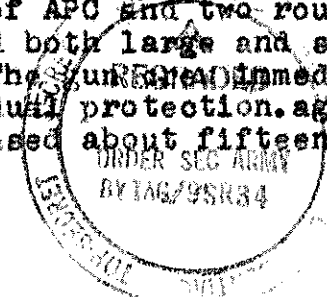
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105 the following report is submitted for the month of September 1944:-

1 September - "C" Co attached to the 44th FA Bn as part of Task Force "TAYLOR". Bn less "C" Co attached to 4th Div Arty. "A" and "B" Cos occupied AT positions protecting the Div CP.

2 September - Bn less "C" Co advanced in the Div Zone of Action to new assembly area. Cos occupied AT defense for Div CP.

3 September - Bn less "C" Co advanced to the vicinity of ESSIGNY le GRANDE. "A" and "B" Cos occupied AT positions around the towns of ESSIGNY le GRANDE and URVILLERS to protect Div CP and Div Arty CP. On this same date at 0830 the 2nd section of the 2nd platoon of "C" Co plus one security corporal and the two-man Bazooka team went into positions on a crossroad at WASSIGNY, France. At 0900 the same morning one 2 1/2 ton German personnel carrier approached the road crossing and was challenged by the section leader. A German officer dismounted, spoke to his driver, but did not respond to the challenge. The gun sergeant ordered his crew to surround the vehicle and capture the personnel. The driver of the personnel carrier put the vehicle into reverse trying to make a withdrawal. At this time the platoon leader gave orders to fire the 3" gun. The gunner responded to this command, fired one round of APC which stopped the vehicle, then fired a round of HE, putting the vehicle out of action. The remainder of the personnel of the vehicle opened fire with small arms. A scrimmage between the gun crew and enemy lasted for about fifteen minutes. Results: officer wounded, five enemy killed. At 0915 same morning while scraping up the wounded and dead Germans a staff sedan occupied by a German officer, one first sergeant and three enlisted men rounded the crossroad and ran into the 3" gun. The driver backed away from the gun and started down the road. Members of the gun crew opened fire with small arms killing all five Germans. Soon afterwards another staff sedan with a trailer tried to by-pass the gun position. The gun crew opened fire with small arms, killed two and wounded two more. At 0945 a German SP dual mounted 20mm vehicle approached the road crossing firing into the positions as he proceeded. The gunner of the 3" gun allowed the SP to come to point-blank range and then opened fire with two rounds of APC and two rounds of HE. The SP vehicle immediately caught fire and both large and small ammunition which it had been carrying exploded. The SP immediately withdrew to trenches and foxholes for individual protection against the exploding vehicle. After the explosion ceased about fifteen

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German personnel with Schmeiser guns infiltrated around the gun crew and into the platoon CP. One entered the CP spraying the rooms as he walked through them. He left the house and was killed by a member of the crew. The remainder of the enemy were forced to take a new route and it was reported later that they ran into more of the AT guns losing both vehicles and men. Results of this action are as follows: One 2½ ton personnel carrier, one SP dual mounted 20mm weapon, two sedans, twenty enemy killed, twelve captured, two wounded. This action received one man slightly wounded with no other casualties.

4 September - Bn received warning order for movement. "C" Co encountered enemy at outskirts of BAZEUL. Results: Four killed, two captured and one wounded. No casualties suffered by our troops. Task Force established bridgeheads at MONTERNY and FUMAY. Two platoons of this Co were used for defense of these bridgeheads.

5 September - Bn advanced in vicinity of RINOGNE. "A" and "B" Cos occupied AT defense for Div CP. "C" Co moved in direct firing positions in support of Cavalry at HARDNESS.

6 September - Co "A" atchd 12th Inf. Co "B" atchd 8th Inf. "A" Co with the 12th Inf Combat Team was used to protect the flanks of the team while it advanced. This was done by leapfrogging the platoons from town to town or important road junctions as the advance of the infantry cleared same. "B" Co platoons were atchd to the Bn of the infantry regiment. The second platoon under command of Lt KOLLIG followed the Recon elements which consisted of a Jeep and an M8. On one occasion they were moving up a small, narrow, wooded road. All of a sudden the jeep in front of the M8 was hit by an explosive shell. Small arms fire came from all sides. Due to the width of the road the 3" guns could not be placed in action. All men of the crews dismounted to use their small arms. The automatic weapons in the halftracks were manned and enough fire was put out by the platoon to ward off the attack. The vehicles and equipment received slight damage. This same platoon occupied positions on a hill farther to the front. Infantry reported a tank assembly in a draw which was to their front. The platoon leader ordered two guns placed in position to cover this draw and fired twenty-four rounds of 3" HE into the location where the tanks were reported. No verification was ever received as to what effect the firing had done. The advance was too rapid. The Bn less its three companies moved with the Div CP.

7 September - One platoon of "C" Co detached from the 44th FA Bn and atchd to the 4th Div for AT defense of Div CP. The Bn CP moved to vicinity of GRADIE. "C" Co less one platoon moved to ALLE, Belgium.

8 September - Companies reverted to Bn control upon relief of 893rd TD Bn(SP). "A" Co atchd to 8th Inf as of 1600 same date. Platoons of this Co occupied positions in the vicinity of LIBIN and HATRIEVEL. The third platoon which occupied positions in the vicinity of HATRIEVEL had one gun move into position on the East side of town covering a road bounded by woods on both sides. Just a few yards in front of this position a small road joined the main one. At dusk the crew while placing the

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gun in position heard the rumbling of a tank which appeared to be coming closer. They listened and all of a sudden a Mark IV tank came from this secondary road, turned up the main one going away from their gun positions. The loader threw a round of APC into the breach. The gun sergeant pointed the gun the best way he could so as to hit the tank and pulled the lanyard. (Note: The 3" gun in its travelling position does not carry a sight. It has proved unsatisfactory to leave the sight mounted while the gun is being towed. This is the reason for the pointing of the gun instead of aiming.) The projectile hit the tank in the radiator and exploded in the motor. One of the riflemen in the crew fired his carbine and killed the tank commander. The remainder of the crew were taken prisoner.

9 September - The third platoon of "A" Co encountered enemy in the vicinity of VESQUEVILLE. The platoons occupied positions protecting the flanks of the Combat Team. Outposts of that platoon reported enemy vehicles coming up a road not covered by 3" guns. The platoon leader immediately reorganized the platoon into Bazooka teams and patrols. They destroyed one halftrack and disabled two more. Ten Germans were killed. No casualties were suffered on our side. The Bn less "A" Co moved to vicinity of ST HUBERT. One section of "C" Co remained with Div CP.

10 September - The Bn less "A" Co advanced to new locations.

11 & 12 September - "A" Co reverted back to Bn. The Bn moved to the vicinity of FADGUELAIN. Cos occupied AT defense of Div CP.

13 September - Co "B" atchd to the 12th Inf Regt. Co "A" atchd to 8th Inf Regt. Bn less two Cos moved to vicinity of ST VITH. 1900 same date "A" Co reverted back to Bn control and occupied positions AT defense.

14 September - Bn less "B" Co moved into AUW, Germany. Later moved to vicinity of SCHONBERG, Belgium. Cos occupied positions of AT defense of Div CP.

15 & 16 September - "B" Co reverted to Bn control. Occupied positions of AT defense in vicinity of AUW, North flank of Div. One platoon of Co "C" atchd to 2nd Cav Gp, occupied positions on Northern flank of Div sector.

17 September - The atchd platoon of "C" Co received a fire mission to knock out an observation tower located on the SIEGFRIED LINE, 3500 yards to their front; twenty rounds of HE and twenty rounds of APC were expended on this target. Hits were recorded but results were unknown. Upon completion of firing heavy counter-battery was received. No casualties were suffered. One platoon of "B" Co was moved to vicinity of KOBSEID. This was to strengthen and lengthen AT defense of that flank.

18 September - Two platoons of "C" Co placed in AT defense on South flank of Div. A Recon platoon from this unit was atchd to this Co for the purpose of establishing outposts and screening of gun positions. Due to the type of terrain, which was hills and valleys, these platoons received heavy barrages of mortar and machinegun fire while going into position.

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19 & 20 September - Bn remained in present location.
21, 22, 23 & 24 September - Situation remained the same. First platoon of "C" Co fired forty rounds on a church steeple which was believed to be an OP. Results: Steeple completely demolished.
25 September - First platoon Co "C" relieved from North flank and ordered to South flank. One platoon of "B" Co occupied their positions. Co "C" used new platoon to strengthen this defense.
26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 September - Bn remained in present location. During this period 16 September to 30 September the Div had progressed through the SIEGFRIED LINE in the center of the Div sector which left both flanks highly vulnerable to mechanized attack. This Bn received the mission of AT defense for these flanks. On the North, "B" Co occupied positions with elements of Recon units to their front and sides. No depth could be used for these guns due to the wide sector they had to cover. The sections were employed on commanding ground with valleys to the front or sides while the next nearest hill contained enemy and observation. Movement of troops could be picked up from either side. During the hours of darkness the enemy sent heavy patrols into these gun positions to determine probably the strength. Mines and boobytraps were of great value to us. "C" Co on the South flank occupied similar positions. On one occasion an enemy patrol went past the outpost of a gun crew, killed one and seriously wounded another in this crew. "A" Co during this period was used as close-in AT defense of Div OP.

E. B. HORSFALL,
Lt Col., 801 TD Bn.,
Commanding.

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

HEADQUARTERS
801st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO #230

X-178

2 October, 1944

SUBJECT: Action against enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.

1. In compliance with letter, dated 19 August, 1944, Headquarters IV Infantry Division, APO 4, W. S. Army, AG 319.1 par 4, the following report is submitted:

a - No change.

b - No change

c - Strength:

	O	WO	EM
1 September/44	32	2	754
30 September/44	32	2	744
Net decrease	-	-	10



d - No change

e - See Appendix #1

f - None officially designated

g - See Appendix #1

h - Lt. Colonel E. B. Horsfall, O-332211, Infantry.

i - Date: 30 September/44

Fvt Hilario (NMI) Armijo, 38349064, Co "C" 801 TD Bn. KIA

PFC George A. Greene, 32664731, Co "C" 801 TD Bn., SWA

Opl Mario (NMI) Pezzuti, 33085525, Co "C" 801 TD Bn., LWA

j - Silver Star:

Thomas F. Nolan Jr., 1st Lt., O-1825434 AWS, Hq. Co 801 TD Bn.,

Neil (NMI) Anderson, Pvt., 37574963, Hq. Co 801 TD Bn., by GO

#61, Hq 4th Infantry Division, 8 September/44.

Bronze Star:

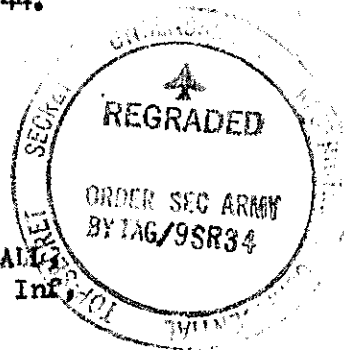
Walter C. Smela, 1st Lt., O-1823078 AWS Co "C" 801 TD Bn.

Louis S. Overhouse, 1st Lt., O-1825045, AWS Co "C" 801 TD Bn., by

GO #62, Hq 4th Infantry Division, 14 September/44.

k - None.

l - See inclosures.



E. B. HORSFALL
Lt Colonel, Inf
Commanding.

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