

HEADQUARTERS 808TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464, United States Army

BATTALION HISTORY

NOVEMBER 1944

The month opened with the Battalion -A attached to 85 Div, Co A attached to 88 Div. Fifth Army has halted and taken up defensive positions. The 88th is organized generally along the 325 northing, north of Baccanello and Monterenzio between Highway 6581 and Montecalderaro. The 89th on the right holds the latter and Mt Grande. The 84th Inf Div on the left is about abreast, holds the ridge of St Farniche west of Hy 6581. 81 Div on left of 84, is astride Hy 65. These 4 sectors comprise a pronounced salient pointed at Hy 6 slightly east of Bologna. A-1 is assembled at Ca di Busi (975516) behind Montecalderaro. A-2 is in position in saddle between Montecalderaro and Mt Grande. A-3 is covering the San Clemente road toward the exposed east flank. B-1 is in assembly at Monterenzio. B-2 is on the Sassino ridge with 3 guns. B-3 is in position around Castelvecchio, with one gun overturned and unretrievable. C has 6 guns on hill 518, Le Torre, Osteria and Baccanello, all on or overlooking Hy 6581 and the high ground to the west. The rest of the company is at C. Spetra, behind Baccanello. These positions are mainly accidental, being those occupied at the moment when torrential rains immobilized them. Hcn Co is operating an anti tank warning net with OPS at C di Gasi, Hill 582, and Montecalderaro. Except for A Co, and minor changes, this situation remained stable throughout the month. Due to ammunition restrictions, Corps has prohibited the use of 76mm for artillery fire.

- 1 Nov Lt Hickman, wounded 24 Oct, died in hospital.
- 2 Nov Sgt Garcia, at OP 1, killed by high burst. C had half track damaged by shell-fire at C Spetra.
- 3 Nov rains continue.
- 4-5 NOV weather clears.
- 6 Nov Plans published for withdrawing and resting the 88th Div and then the 89th. Corps ordered A-1 at Ca di Busi attached to B, 3 TDS of A-2 on Montecalderaro transferred to British 1st Div or Memo. Receipt. Due to restrictions on moving tracked vehicles on roads, it is unlikely BA will get a relief.
- 7 Nov MTB
- 8 Nov OP 4 withdrawn, 1st Div (Br) having relieved both in this sector.
- 9 Nov A Co (less 1st pl and 3 TDS of 80) moving tonight to 920175, near Piancordia. TDS moved down ridge road thru Casoli di Romagna. A-752 moved 3 tanks from Ca di Busi to Castelvecchio in order to remain in 86 Div sector.

- 10 Nov C-1-5 and 1-4 moved from hill 516 and La Torre to C Spetra for maintenance. B-2 and A-1 will follow tanks to Castelvecchio tonight. Enemy aircraft at dusk dropped bombs in areas of C and B-1 without damage.
- 11 Nov A-1 and B-2 closed as planned. B assisted by Pioneer platoon demolition men built a road for this move. More dusk enemy air activity.
- 12 Nov Enemy aircraft dropped incendiaries vicinity Bn CP.
- 13 Nov B, aided by newly joined TDs, replaced tracks on TDE thrown last month, is now completely mobile. Another air alert.
- 14 Nov A was permitted to move a TD from Ordnance to his area at Pianonocera.
- 15 Nov Bn C and S-2 departed for conference of TD Bn Comdrs of Fifth Army to review lessons of past operations.
- 16 Nov
1929A Our first day air alert since Beachhead.
1935A Another alert!
- 17 Nov Lt. McClelland, Sgt Sorano, Sgt Malachowski, and Pfc Thomas were presented Bronze Star Medals by Major Gen Keyes, II Cor, s.
- 18 Nov
1146A Red alert!
- 19 Nov Bn C and S-2 returned from TD conference. Some conclusions: Published TD principles are generally sound, though some of the school's tactical concepts have proven unsound or impractical in this theatre. TD strength, instead of being massed, is generally subordinated by the commander. Terrain often forces parceling out. The secondary mission generally takes the primary one in time and ammunition expended, hence the emphasis on training and equipping for the artillery role. The question of a sweeping revision of T/O's and E's produced a difference of opinion on a basic principle: should Tds tend toward an assumption of the tank role, or should they streamline toward purely a self-propelled gun unit.
- 20 Nov C Cos CP shelled with one casualty and damage to a truck, trailer, and tent. A reported he has been released to the Battalion.
- 21 Nov 85 Div O.I. covered their relief.
- 22 Nov
9491A 85 Div took command of the sector, with 808 TD Bn, 752 Tank Bn, and others attached. Original 85 Div sector has been slipped to westward; 1st British Div has taken part of right regimental sector while 861 Inf has relieved 188 Inf in 34 Div sector. Co A 757 Tank, and 1 platoon, Co C 804 TD, now in latter sector remain under 85 Div. Bn C and Bn G 752 Tank conferred with Div CG and Staff, Div Arty CG and Staff.
- 23 Nov
1718A Red alert.

- 24 Nov
 0830A 18 rounds light artillery fell near CP.
 1430A Fifth Army ATD stated M-18s lent 1st Div (Br) would remain with them, authorized us to draw new ones.
 1830A Bn detached from Div Arty and attached to 752 for operations.
- 25 Nov 752 and 806 published plans for static AT defense and to repel armored attack. After considerable good drying weather, more rains have set in.
- 26 Nov NTR
- 27 Nov NTR
- 28 Nov NTR
- 29 Nov 1st Bn Div lost M Castellano.
- 30 Nov Continued rain; terrain impassable, roads bad. A Div memo initiated planning for future operations. We are working with 752 on it.



GARDEN W. MCCORMELL,
 Lieut. Colonel, P.S.,
 Commanding.

Appendix "A"

- 3-3 Journal
- 3-3 Report 85th Div.
- 3-3 Report 85th Div. Arty.
- 3-3 Reports 805th TD Bn.
- 3-2 Reports 85th Div.
- 3-2 Report 85th Div,
 Operational Instructions
 Messages

Appendix "B"

- 3-1 Journal
- Officers Roster
- Casualty Report