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HEADQUARTERS
GLIEX TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

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AUTH: G2 5th Inf Div
DATE: 1 Dec 44
LIMIT: 185 JCS ADJ.,
1516th TD Battalion.

AFD 436, US Army
1 December 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Xassy Report.

TO : Commanding General,
5th Infantry Division,
AFD 5, US Army.

In compliance with paragraph 10, change 3, AM 845-105 and above subject letter, Headquarters, 5th Infantry Division, dated 29 July 1944, the following report is submitted for the period 23 Oct to 30 Nov 1944 inclusive:

1. PERIODICAL

- a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of period:
 - At beginning of period:
38 O 1 WO 814 XM Total 853
 - At end of period:
40 O 1 WO 806 XM Total 837
- b. Killed in actions: 4.
Wounded in actions: 9.
Missing in actions: None.
- c. Replacements received:
4 O 10 XM Total 14.

2. GENERAL

a. Identification: The following enemy units were to our front during this period:

55 Fort MG Bn
45 Fort MG Bn
III Stollung Bn
XV171 Stollung Bn
38 SS Pz Gr Regt
Assault Bn AOK
811 AA Bn
1519 Fort Arty Bn
462 Sig Bn
Polizei Landeschuetzen Bn XII
Volkssturm MFFS
1543 Arty Regt
1462 AF Bn
1462 Transport Co
462 Inf Div Battle school
462 Field Hospital
1519 Arty Bn
55 Ft Mgr Bn
811 Ft MG Bn

761 Arty Regt
976 Lt Flak Bn
Feldkommandatur MFFS
Feldfliegerregiment MFFS
City Police MFFS
Pol Ida Schutz Bn
Volkssturm Mats
KS Force
762 Landeschuetzen Bn
672 Flak Bn
III Stollung Bn
1515 Gran Regt
1419 Ft Inf Bn
38 SS Pz Gr Regt
45 Ft MG Bn
46 Ft MG Bn
52 Ft MG Bn
508 Hq Ft MG Bn



b. Summary of enemy operations: Xassy resisted stubbornly from the start of our attacks. He made numerous counterattacks which were preceded by artillery preparations. However, all of his attacks proved to be futile. Three particularly heavy counter-attacks were made in the vicinity of SANNY-REH-NIED. It is estimated each consisted of a strength of about two companies of the 38 SS Pz Grenadier Regiment. All counter-attacks were repulsed with no loss of ground to friendly troops. No particularly strong resistance was met in our sector of the city of MFFS. Xassy did not use tanks in any of his counter-attacks, but did have tanks and self-propelled guns on outskirts of MFFS of which this unit destroyed two. It will be noted from the above that the enemy was from widely varied units. Also a different type of enemy was met for the first time, consisting of the Volkssturm MFFS, and Polizei Landeschuetzen, neither proving very formidable.



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The stronger forts in the METZ vicinity still continue to be held by the enemy. Harassing fire is received from these forts at irregular intervals. Some of the smaller forts were evacuated by the enemy, and others capitulated with surrender of all inhabitants. Forts which the enemy still occupies are Ft BRIGHT, Ft ST MARTIN, Ft FLEPPENVILLE, and Ft JEANNE D'ARC.

c. Estimated enemy losses during period. This unit destroyed the following during the period:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 3 Machine gun nests | 2 Tanks |
| 1 20mm AA Gun | 2 88mm guns |
| 2 Vehicles | 1 Armored car |
| 1 Trailer | |

It is also estimated that various other enemy equipment was destroyed and that the enemy suffered a minimum of 200 casualties but due to action could not be verified.

d. Prisoners captured: Fifteen prisoners were captured by this unit during month of November.

e. Enemy morale and status of equipment: (if from PW sources as state).

Enemy morale was very low, due to lack of food and proper clothing. Enemy status of equipment was generally fair. He made use of renovated French and Russian guns in the forts. Ammunition supply seemed to be fairly plentiful, except in the forts, which due to being surrounded, were unable to get supplies. All of this from PW sources.

3. OWN OPERATIONS. a. Forces engaged. Throughout period, the 818th TD Bn was attached to the 5th Inf Div, assigned to XX Corps, Third Army. The 98th Inf Div was on the left and at one time the 90th Inf Div was also on the left. XII Corps was on the right with 80th Inf Div on their left. At one time, the 6th Armored Div attacked along the Corps boundary and was on our right. During most of period the 774th TD Bn was also attached to the 5th Inf Div operating in the sector of the 11th Inf Regt.

b. Reserves: One or two platoons were usually in reserve, normally on secondary mission. Each TD Co normally had one platoon in depth. The organic AF guns of the Div and the 774th TD Bn gave additional support to the operations.

c. Summary of Operations: The 818th TD Bn was engaged in training, reorganization, and maintenance vicinity JOFFENHUT from 23 Oct to 2 Nov 44, on which day the Bn moved with the 5th Div back into the bridgehead across the MOSELLE R of METZ, relieving the 778d and 705th TD Bns. Co A moved 2 pls W and E of ARNY, one to LES MERILS; Co B W and E of LORRY and Co C on indirect fire S of ARNY; Bn CP to MOUXIERES. On 2, 3, 4, and 5, there was no action except indirect fire, Co C firing 803 rds indirect. On 6 Nov the 774th TD Bn relieved elements of Co A, B, and C in sector of the 11th Inf, the 818th then support of the 10th and 2nd Inf.

On 6 Nov Co B was attached to the 10th Inf Regt and the 818th TD Bn (-Co B) was attached to the 2nd Inf. There was no action except indirect fire until 9 Nov, firing 1063 rds indirect. On 9 Nov XX Corps attacked to the E, the 5th Div crossing the SEILLAS R. Co B fired 45 rds HE in support of crossing of the 10th Inf and knocked out one 88mm gun and crew. From 10 Nov to 13 Nov, the attack advanced successfully to vic HANNY-sur-WILD and a bridgehead was established across the WIED FRANCOISSE R in that vicinity. Co B supported attack of 10th Inf and the Bn (-Co B) supported attack of 2d Inf, providing anti-mechanized protection at all times to the E and W. Bn Co manned OP's throughout sector. No tanks were encountered and there was no action. On 13 Nov all companies reverted to Bn control. Bn CP moved to BUCHY on 11 Nov.

On 14 Nov 5th Div attacked W toward METZ with Co B in direct support of 10th Inf, Co A in direct support of 2nd Inf and Co C in general support. Bn CP moved to GERTHUY on 15 Nov. Two 1 ton trailers, one MG, and one 1 1/2 ton truck and other equipment were damaged or destroyed by enemy artillery fire during this period. On 16 Nov Co B fired 28 rds HE, 4 rds APG at enemy buildings and MG positions. Co C fired 8 rds HE, 8 rds APG, destroyed one enemy armored car and captured 2 PW's. On 17 Nov Co C fired 84 rds HE and 5 APG at forts in support of 2nd Inf. On 18 Nov, bridgehead across Wied was withdrawn, 1st and 3d pls of Co A moved to indirect fire positions at ADEN, reinforcing the 30th FA Bn. Co B 3d pl fired 16 rds APG and 6 rds HE, knocking out 2 enemy tanks and one towed gun via BUCHY. 2nd pl fired 2 APG, 25 HE and 300 rds SO cal in support of displacement of 3d pl. Co C fired 54 rds indirect fire and 70 rds direct fire in support of 2nd Inf. On 19 Nov Co A fired 200 rds indirect fire, Co B knocked out a MG,



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with 6 rds HE, Co C fired 3 HE and 250 rds 50 cal knocking out an enemy truck and trailer and fired 27 rds HE in support of Inf attack. Bn CP moved to hospital in PELTZ.

On 20 Nov Bn CP moved to BREWYER SEMINARY RD of METZ, coord US91549. Co A, 774th T2 Bn was placed in support of 818th and defended a sector via SORREY until 22 Nov when relieved. Co A moved from indirect fire positions to via OGI, Co B in METZ, Co C to just E of METZ. On 22 Nov Co A to 2nd Inf, Co B to 10th Inf and Co C to 11th Inf for attack on METZ proper and forts surrounding. 7 PW's were captured, 6 by Sq Co, 1 by Recon Co. From 22 Nov to 30 Nov, companies remained attached to Inf Regts. There was no action except occasional firing at enemy occupied forts or buildings. Co A fired 30 rds 81mm mortar harassing fire on a fort. During this period maintenance was stressed. On 25 Nov Co A fired 43 rds HE & 5 APG at forts, Co B fired 20 HE, 1 APG and 7 HE w/ CP 105 fuse at forts. On 26 Nov Co A fired 26 rds HE, 3 APG and 2 CP 105 knocking out 1 MG. Co B fired 8 rds HE and 4 APG. On 27 Nov Co B fired 43 rds HE at forts. The 3d platoon Co B attached to 81 Bn, 10th Inf was attached to 95th Inf Div and moved to via SOLE KREUZWEY then to SALLING. On 28 Nov Co C fired 14 rds HE and 500 rds .50 cal silencing one MG, probably knocking out one 20mm gun and captured 1 PW in civilian clothes. On 30 Nov Co B attached to 10th Inf, moved to via SALLING near German border in Corps reserve.

d. Results: At end of period the situation was more or less static with all of METZ area having been cleared except four forts W of ROSELLE E still holding out. T2 Co's were attached to Inf Regts for attack on these forts. During period, the 818th provided anti-tank protection for the 5th Inf Div at all times and supported the attack of Div with direct and indirect fire. Only 2 tanks were encountered and they were knocked out.

4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION.

a. Summary of supply activity during period and factors affecting flow of supplies.

(1) The various supply agencies of the division supplied the battalion with the exception of Class V and Ordnance Class II, which were obtained from the nearest Corps or Army installations. All Ordnance repair and replacement was handled by the 556th Ordnance Heavy Tank Co of the 193rd Ordnance Bn. Ordnance requisitions and repairs were handled by the 266th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Co in all emergencies.

(2) Rations for the month averaged 85% 10-in-1 and 25% B. Rations were issued to the companies daily. B rations were consumed when conditions warranted.

(3) Companies requisitioned on Bn for all supplies which were secured as rapidly as possible from the proper supply agencies. Motor maintenance and parts supply was handled by the Battalion Motor Officer. Tires 7150 x 20 for truck, 2 1/2 ton GMC 6x6 cargo and 6100x16 for truck, 1 ton 4x4, were very critical items during this period. At the close of the period 55% basic load of spare parts for general purpose vehicles and 50% basic load for combat vehicle were on hand. Overshoes and other winter clothing was obtained and issued. Showdown inspection was conducted for overages and excess was turned in.

(4) The 55th Ordnance Heavy Tank Co and the 266th Medium Maintenance Co provided third echelon maintenance. First and second echelon maintenance was performed by the Battalion Maintenance Platoon and Co motor sections.

(5) Ammunition: Basic load maintained by replacement as expended.

b. Status of supply and evacuation at close of period.

(1) Branch	On Hand
Ordnance	90%
Quartermaster	100%
Medical	100%
Chemical Warfare	100%
Engineer	100%
Signal	92%

(2) Major critical items short are as follows: 2 ea truck 1 1/2 ton, 6 x 6 cargo; 1 ea truck 1/2 ton 4 x 4.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS based on battle experience. Include tactics, and use of equipment:

a. Answers to Part II of questionnaire recently submitted to higher Headquarters contains current recommendations in detail.

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b. This Battalion has not been opposed by a Panther attack but only by individual or small groups of tanks principally used as self propelled guns. This has required a skilful coordination of Inf and TD units in order to secure routes and select positions from which the enemy tanks could be reached. Superior marksmanship has been required in order to destroy them at the longer ranges.

c. Armor plate tops should be provided immediately for open turret destroyers. There is no need for a destroyer to be much different from a tank.

d. Recommend all M20's be replaced by half-tracks or M18's w/e 76mm gun. The M20 is an excellent radio vehicle but is not satisfactory in combat.

e. The TD Bn SP as now organized and equipped, with minor exceptions, is superb for its primary and secondary missions.

f. Recommend all TD platoon sergeants have a rating of Two Sgt.

C. L. Hail

G. L. HAIL,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
COMBAT COMMAND.



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