

RESTRICTED

13 MAY - 31 OCT 43

dup

HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 251, c/o Postmaster, N. Y., N. Y.

18 November 1943.

SUBJECT: Operations Report
TO : Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. (thru channels).

1. In compliance with the requirements of paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated March 10, 1943, the following operations report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion covering the period 13 May 1943 to 31 October 1943 is herewith submitted.
2. The operations covered in this report are statements from the Unit Journal and the Battalion Diary, and supporting evidence for said statements is on file in the records of this Battalion.

JOHN G. ERSKINE
1st Lt., 701st TD Bn,
Actg. Adjutant

OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period - May 13 - Oct. 31, 1943.

With the end of hostilities in Tunisia in May 1943, the Battalion went into an administrative bivouac in the vicinity of Gasset et Tachia area, approximately 8 miles south of Matser. On May 11th a limited training schedule was published, and on May 15th four M-10 tank destroyers were borrowed from the 776th T.D. Bn. for the purpose of instructing all officers and men in the new weapon (the Battalion Commander had received information that the Battalion was, in the near future, to travel to Casablanca or vicinity to re-equip for coming operations).

194-681
194-761

**DOWNGRADED TO:
RESTRICTED**

10 MAR 1944

BY AUTHORITY OF TAG AFS

RESTRICTED

S-8ug 45
Date Initials

RESTRICTED

The next 6-8 weeks were spent in this area. Officers schools were conducted in indirect fire for artillery, several night problems were conducted, and general training was carried out. Much time was allowed for athletics, and Battalion teams made a creditable showing against teams from other units.

On July 9th the Battalion moved to a new area 11 miles east of Bizerte (Metline area). In this area, most of the time was spent in rest and relaxation on the beach. On July 21st the Battalion Commander received orders that the 701st was attached to the 5th Army, and would move back to F3300U, some 130 miles south of Oran, to receive its new equipment. On July 27th, 8 officers and 197 enlisted men left for Bizerte to escort L's back to Oran, and on August 1st 1 officer and 30 enlisted men were detailed for a similar mission. On this latter date tracked vehicles of the Battalion left for Mateur under Major Hedding for rail shipment to the new area, and wheeled vehicles departed in road convoy the following day under the command of Lt. Col. King.

The wheeled vehicles arrived at the new area (5th Army T. U. Training Center), some 10 miles south of Sidiou, on the evening of August 6th. 36 M-10's were immediately drawn from the 636th T. U. Co. (training equipment), and the 75mm SP's were turned in at Oran upon arrival. A strenuous training schedule was established, and the next month was spent in driver instruction, range firing (direct and indirect), maintenance instruction, and in Officers and NCO's Schools.

On August 27th the Battalion was dropped from assignment to TDFC and assigned to the 1st Armored Division (in bivouac at St. Barbe - near Oran). On September 7th, all M-10's in possession of the Battalion were turned over to TDFC. The next day, September 8th, movement was made to St. Barbe where

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

an administrative bivouac was established. While in this area, new M-10's and M/T's and numerous wheeled vehicles were drawn. Here, as far as possible, the training was continued. Numerous schools were conducted, and several F.A.-T.O. cooperation problems were fired on the range at Mt. Sarba.

Effective October 8th, all training periods were devoted to preparation for movement to the new theater of operations, and on October 13th vehicles began to move to ports of embarkation (as both Battalion and Division vehicles were well spread on many ships in several convoys, all vehicular movements were small. By October 24th, a total of 63 vehicles had departed). The largest shipment was on the *HMF Orantes*, which consisted of 24 officers and 256 enlisted men. This group arrived at Bayoli, Italy, on the 28th of October, disembarked, and moved into bivouac area 1/4 mile east of *SUGGIVO*, Italy. Thus, at the end of October 1942, half the Battalion was located in the new theater of operations, Italy; while the other half was still in the old Theater, Africa.

Albert B. Howard
ALBERT B. HOWARD
Capt., 701st Tank Bstn. 881.
-2.

RESTRICTED