

S E C R E T

S - 3 REPORT

From : 312400A October 1944
 To : 302400A November 1944
 Unit : 702nd Tank Destroyer Bn
 Place : K888549
 Date & Hour of Issue : 302400A November 44

No. 10

Maps: GSGS, 5002, 5003, 5102, Scale 1/25,000.

I. OUR FRONT LINES: Generally ROER River between (0063) and (0161).

II. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Battalion (less Company "B")(K888549) under Division control. Company "A" (less one platoon)(K906582). One platoon in indirect fire position (K964589). Company "B" attached CC"B"(K984603). Outpost duty. Company "C" under Battalion control in vicinity (K888549)

III. LOCATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS: Does not apply.

IV. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD: The Battalion C.P. remained in vicinity of PALENBURG, GERMANY (K847588) from 1-23 November 1944, establishing forward C.P.'s and radio contact stations further forward, during periods of activity by the line companies. On the 24 November the Battalion C.P. was moved to ALSDORF, GERMANY (888549) and remained there throughout the remainder of the month.

During the period 1-5 November 1944 Company "A" remained on outpost duty along CCA front line sector at BAESWEILER, GERMANY (K906582) and BEGGENDORF, GERMANY (K898598) with two platoons, relieving a platoon of Company "C" in the last town 2 November 1944. The 2nd Platoon in BEGGENDORF, GERMANY fired at probable O.P.'s in FLOVERICH, GERMANY (K910615) on 3 November 1944, resulting in the destruction of two steeples at 1800 yards. On the 5 November 1944 Company "A" was relieved of all outposts with the exception of a listening patrol (Reconnaissance Platoon) established at BAESWEILER, GERMANY serving as a connecting line between the Second Armored Division and the 29th Infantry Division. Company "A" was assembled in ZU UBACH, GERMANY (K878583) on thirty minute alert under CCA Control, remaining in mobile reserve in that location until 7 November 1944.

All outposts were relieved by 7 November 1944 and the Company placed in CCA reserve in an area West of the WURM RIVER (K795600). Attachments were designated for future operations as follows: 1st Platoon attached to the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment (TF #A); 2nd Platoon remained with Company "A" as CCA reserve; 3rd Platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment (TF #B). Company "A" remained in place preparing for future operations. Between 15-17 November, Company "A" was completely equipped with new M-36 Tank Destroyers.

On the 17 November 1944, Company "A" (Less 1st Platoon held in Division Reserve) moved with TF "A" to assembly positions near PUFFENDORF, GERMANY (K925612) to be prepared to attack toward EDEREN, GERMANY (K955668) on 19 November 1944. A patrol of twelve enemy were encountered in PUFFENDORF and killed by Company "A" outpost. Company "A" (less one platoon) outposted PUFFENDORF and during the period 17-18 November 1944 destroyed three (3) Mk V tanks and one (1) Mk IV tank. On the 19th of November on the attack of TF "A" of CCA toward the high ground between PUFFENDORF and EDEREN they destroyed three (3) Mk V tanks opposing the advance of the tanks; firing on our advance from FREIALDENHOVEN, GERMANY (K955610) and EDEREN.

On 20 November 1944 Company "A" (less one platoon) assisted in advance of TF "A" of CCA by covering and flanking fires on EDEREN, GERMANY, destroying one (1) Mk IV; one (1) Mk V; and two (2) Mk VI tanks. Three M-36 Tank Destroyers were hit and destroyed by enemy fire during the attack from PUFFENDORF to EDEREN. After the objective was secured Company "A" was placed on outpost duty around EDEREN to secure the town

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against enemy tank attack and to assist in the attack of TF "B" of CCA on the town of MERZENHAUSEN, GERMANY (986605) by fire.

Company "A", less one platoon, remained on outpost duty around EDEREN, under heavy shell fire from WELZ, GERMANY (K965635) and area NE of the ROER RIVER, until relieved on the 211100 November by elements of the 771st TD Battalion and 771st Tank Battalion. Company "A" assembled in BASEWEILER, GERMANY (K907582) for reorganization and maintenance.

Company "A" alerted on 25 November to assist in attack on BARMEN (K990615) if necessary. On the 26 November Company "A" moved to FRELALDENHOVEN under CCA control to assist in the attack. One platoon was held in reserve; one under control of 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment; and one platoon attached to the 82nd Reconnaissance Battalion. These platoons assisted in the taking of the BARMEN-KOSLAR highway and protection of MERZENHAUSEN, being used principally on the flanks of the tank attacks and as AT guns in captured towns and along the high ground. No enemy tanks were engaged during this attack. Approximately thirty-five enemy were killed with MG's and 90MM HE by the 2nd Platoon, Company "A".

Company "A" was relieved on 29 November 1944 to return to Baseweiler, Germany for reorganization, extensive maintenance and training of replacement men and Officers.

1 - 16 November 1944: Company "B" remained in CCB mobile reserve in the vicinity of UBACH, GERMANY (K872601) completing reorganization and maintenance preparatory to XIX Corps attack. One platoon of M-36TD's were attached on 10 November manned by "C" Company personnel to give Company "B" a heavier striking force for the initial attack and training in that vehicle.

Company "B" was placed under following attachments: 1st Platoon to TF #1; 2nd Platoon in TF #2; and the 3rd Platoon in TF #X of CCB. On the 16 November Company "B" moved out in support of CCB on attack on FLOVERICH, GERMANY (K910614) and LOVERICH, GERMANY (K914603). Objectives taken at 0900 and attack continued at that time toward the town of PUFFENDORF, GERMANY (K926612) which was seized at 1200. During the period 16-17 November Company "B" destroyed three (3) Mk IV tanks; three (3) Mk V tanks; two (2) SP guns; and neutralized two pill boxes. Platoon of Company "C" attached claimed one (1) Mk IV.

Company "B" (plus one platoon M-36 TD's) were placed on outposts at IMMENDORF, (K901626), PUFFENDORF (K926612) and the high ground in between those two cities. On the 18 November APWEILER (K916628) was taken in the face of heavy AT fire. Guns of Company "B" assisted by covering the advance of the tanks by fire. Immediately after seizure by troops of CCB two platoons of Company "B" were placed in position of readiness to defend the objective from counter-attacks. Two platoons of the 771st TD Battalion outposted the town proper. During this attack the subsequent action the 19 November along the entire front Company "B" destroyed one (1) Mk III; two (2) Mk V tanks; two anti-tank guns and one MG nest.

On the 20 November 1944 CCB attacked toward GERONSWELLER, GERMANY (K935635) and the high ground NE of that town. Company "B" (less two platoons remaining on North flank in the vicinity of IMMENDORF on outpost duty) carried out the mission of protecting the flanks of the attacking force and repelling or destroying any opposing armor. One Mk V was destroyed during the engagement. Company "B" had been receiving M-36 TD's as replacements during these engagements and were now complete with exception of four M-10's.

After GERONSWELLER, GERMANY had been taken, Company "B" outposted the town to the North and East. On 21 November the enemy attempted a local counter-attack which was repelled with some losses. Company "B" destroyed one Mk V during this engagement.

On 20 November the 1st Platoon Company "A" held in UBACH, GERMANY as Division Reserve during the Division assault was placed under control of Company "B" and placed on outpost at IMMENDORF, GERMANY. This platoon was relieved, without engagement with the enemy, on the 22 November 1944 and moved to BASEWEILER, GERMANY (K915576) in Division Reserve to later rejoin Company "A" on the 24 November 1944.

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Company "B" was relieved of duty along the CC"B" front and assembled in SIERSDORF, GERMANY for maintenance and reorganization on the 22 November; moving to ALSDORF, GERMANY (K888549) under Battalion Control on the 24 November, remaining in that location through 30 November 1944.

During the action of this month Company "B" suffered heavy losses. Two M-36 TD's were burned; one damaged beyond repair; one M-10 burned and three damaged by enemy action. Corresponding loss in trained personnel resulted.

From 1-16 November two Platoons Company "C" were on indirect fire missions for the Division Artillery in the vicinity of UBACH, GERMANY (K865592) firing interdiction and harrassing fires during the hours of darkness. One platoon Company "C" was on outpost duty at BEGGENDORF, GERMANY (K900596) until relieved by a platoon of Company "A" on 2 November 1944. This platoon reverted to the Company and placed in indirect fire position. Indirect fire was carried on by the Company during this period with exception of a forty-eight hour halt to draw and prepare M-36's. Company "C" was completely changed over by 12 November 1944 and test fired new weapons both direct and indirect.

Company "C" was placed under following attachments for the Second Armored Division attack. Two platoons of Company "C" attached to TF "B" of CC"A"; Company "C" (-less two platoons) under CC"A".

On the 17 November 1944 Company "C" was relieved from indirect firing mission in UBACH, GERMANY and moved to assembly positions South of BEGGENDORF, GERMANY (K895995). One platoon in reserve position in BEGGENDORF from 17-18 November. On the 191800A November Company "C", less two platoons outposted SETTERICH, GERMANY (K924593) to protect TF "B"'s rear and South flank during attack on FREIALDENHOVEN, (K958600).

Two platoons Company "C", attached to TF "B" under command of Colonel HINES, assisted in that elements attack through SETTERICH, toward the high ground to the East of PUFFENDORF, GERMANY (K944609) on 191300 November. Attack continued at 201000 November toward FREIALDENHOVEN (K958600) with TD's protecting the advance by fire to the front and flanks.

Company "C" less two platoons was ordered into EDEREN, GERMANY (K955618) to assist Company "A" in defending that sector, being attached to TF"A" under Colonel SWIET. Company "C" less two platoons released from TF"A" to rejoin two platoons in TF"B" on the 24 November to assist in the attack of that element on MERZENHAUSEN, GERMANY (K985605).

The town of MERZENHAUSEN, GERMANY had been partially taken on the 22 November by TF"B" but had been successfully defended by the enemy with Mk VI tanks in the NE part of town. The TD's assisted in this attack by flank protection, destroyed one (1) Mk IV on the 21 of November.

Company "C" was placed on the high ground in defensive positions prepared to assist attacks by fire.

After Companies "A" and "B" had been withdrawn, Company "C" held the line in MERZENHAUSEN under heavy shell fire, assisting in attack on the enemy by flank fire, destroying one (1) Mk IV tank and two armored vehicles, having lost one M-36 destroyed by enemy action.

On the 25 November 1944 Company "C" prepared to assist in the attack by CC"A" toward BARMEN, GERMANY (K994615) and the high ground along the BARMEN-KOSLAR highway overlooking the ROER RIVER. One platoon attached to CC"A" reserve; two platoons attached to TF "B" under Colonel HINES. Company "C" aided in the attack toward BARMEN, and its vicinity, on the 26-28 November outposting the high ground between EDEREN and FREIALDENHOVEN: the North East of MERZENHAUSEN (when taken) and BARMEN. Very little enemy armor encountered until 28 November when fifteen (15) enemy tanks were reported in FLOSSDOF, GERMANY (K982631) and all TD's alerted for counter-attack. Combined air attack; Artillery and TD fire smashed this attack before more than a threat developed. Company "C" destroyed one (1) Mk V during this action.

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Company "C" placed guns on outpost to the North in BARMEN, MERZENHAUSEN, and on the high ground to the NW of MERZENHAUSEN protecting the Division salient in that sector through the 30 November 1944. One German S.P. gun destroyed by direct fire. Gun was located in vicinity of FLOSSDORF, GERMANY.

Reconnaissance Company was retained in bulk with the Battalion CP throughout period being used as liaison with Infantry Divisions on our right flank and with the various headquarters in command of the Battalion elements. Several men and officers transferred to line companies as replacements.

Bad weather involving muddy terrain and poor visibility plus heavy armor met during this period was to some extent responsible for the heavy losses incurred by the Battalion.

V. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY: Does not apply.

VI. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent.

VII. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

a. By Date and Company

<u>Date</u>	<u>Co "A"</u>	<u>Co "B"</u>	<u>Co "C"</u>
16 November 44		1 Mk IV 1 Mk V 2 SP Guns 2 Pillboxes	
17 November 44	1 Mk V	2 Mk IV 2 Mk V	1 Mk IV
18 November 44	2 Mk V 1 Mk IV		
19 November 44	3 Mk V	1 Mk III 2 Mk V 2 AT Guns 1 MG Nest	
20 November 44	1 Mk IV 1 Mk V 2 Mk VI		
21 November 44		1 Mk V	2 Mk IV 2 Arm'd Vehicles 1 Mk V 1 Mk V
28 November 44			



b. Total by Types:

- 1 Mk III Tank
- 8 Mk IV Tanks
- 15 Mk V Tanks
- 2 Mk VI Tanks
- 2 SP Guns
- 2 AT Guns
- 2 Arm'd Vehicles
- 2 Pillboxes
- 1 MG Nest
- 119 Enemy Killed (Approximately)

JOHN A. BEALL,
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Commanding.

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