

- 708th Tank Destroyer Battalion.
- "A" and "B" Batteries, 413th ADA Battalion to "A" and "B" Companies, 708th TD Bn, respectively.
For Company and Platoon assignments see Narrative (attached).
- Strength: 1 Jul 44: 35 Officers - 1 W.O. - 553 RM.
3 Aug 44: 30 Officers - 1 W.O. - 524 RM.
Decrease: 5 Officers - - 29 RM.
- Deployment: (See Narrative for locations).
- See Narrative.
1. NERBONDE, FRANCE.
2. 1 July 44 - 31 July 44.
3. Does not apply. See Note below.
4. Does not apply. See Note below.
NOTE: Battalion has had Companies assigned to Combat Commands of the Third Army Div and Platoons have been integrated into Task Forces thereof. Due to distances and lack of Battalion control, Bn Hq has very little detail of platoon actions, and missions. Greater detail should be available from Task Forces.
- See Narrative.
- Battalion Commander: Lt Col Wilbur E. SHOMALTER.
"A" Company Commander: Captain John W. COLE.
"B" Company Commander: Captain Donald W. WHITEHEAD, 1 July-18 July 44.
Captain Louis C. CAPELLE, 18 July-31 July 44.
"C" Company Commander: Captain Evan REGAS
Rein Company Commander: Captain Jack V. MURRAY
Hq Company Commander: Captain Louis C. CAPELLE, 1 July- 18 July 44.
Captain Sydney S. SMITH, 18 July- 31 July 44.
1. Losses in action: Battle Casualties:
- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Harriott, R.W. | Sgt | KIA | Hildinger, C.A. | Sgt | KIA |
| McIntyre, E.J. | 1st Lt | SWA | Allen, J.J. | Tec 5 | KIA |
| Rutter, J.V. | Tec 5 | SWA | McGinnis, P.A. | Pvt | DOW |
| Plasecki, S.J. | Cpl | SWA | Lagasse, H.W. | Pvt | SWA |
| Trader, L.C. | Pfc | SWA | Newberg, R.L. | Sgt | LWA |
| Wittler, L.H. | Pvt | SIA | Czajkowski, J | Cpl | LWA |
| Sandoval, L. | Pvt | LWA | Moss, C. | Pvt | LWA |
| Goutreau, F.J. | Pvt | LWA | Wolski, H.S. | Pvt | LWA |
| Burnes, J.M. | Pvt | LWA | Christner, L.E. | Pfc | LWA |
| Christner, E. | Rxxxx | LWA | Blum, J.P. | Pvt | LWA |
| Blok, W.A. | Cpl | LIA | Jarvis, P.J. | Sgt | LWA |
| Dillion, W.V. | Pvt | LWA | Francisco, G. | 1st Lt | LWA |
| Burgess, W.D. | Sgt | KIA | Rand, | Cpl | KIA |
| Richards, E.E. | Pvt | DOW | Aprilante, | Pfc | SWA |
| Aultman, A.B. | Pvt | KIA | Michaud, L | Sgt | SWA |
| Barecca, L. | Pvt | SWA | Wyber, R.H. | Pvt | LWA |
| Murewski, A.R. | Tec 5 | LWA | Covelesski F.A. | Pvt | LWA |
| Chamberlain, R. | Pfc | LWA | | | |
- Citations: Sgt Benjamin Barbalinardo, 32157595, for gallantry in action against the enemy in France on 28 July 44. Awarded the Bronze Star.
Sgt Clarence H Gann 6833582, for gallantry in action against the enemy in France on 28 July 44. Awarded the Bronze Star.

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2. None.

1. Attached, one copy of Unit JOURNAL.
All orders issued by Bn H₁ were verbal. All messages are contained in the JOURNAL.

For the Commanding Officer:

John C. Beacham

JOHN C. BEACHAM,
Capt, 703rd TD Bn.,
Adjutant.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS
703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, US ARMY

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 1 July 44 to 31 JULY 44.

On 1 July 44 the 703rd TD Bn having landed in FRANCE, dewaterproofed vehicles and moved forward to a location (549808) vicinity of CASTILLY. The Bn was attached to the Third Armored Division, in First Army Reserve. On the 2nd July, Bn (less "B" Co and 1st Plt Rcn Co) was attached to Combat Command "A", 3rd Armd Div. Company "B", with 1st Plt Rcn Co attached moved to an Assembly Area, four (4) Kilometers Southeast of ISIGNY (513812) and was attached to Combat Command "B", 3rd Armd Div.

The Bn (less "B" Co and 1st Plt Rcn Co) moved to an Assembly Area on 3 July 44, vicinity of LE MOLAY (677775).

At 0120 hours, 8 July 44, the Bn (-) was attached to Combat Command "A", 3rd Armd Div moved to a new location, closing at 0230 hours, (585720) one (1) mile East of ST MARGARUETE L'ELLE. At 0645, 8 July 44, "B" Co and 1st Plt Rcn Co, moved with Combat Command "B" attack, crossing the VIRE RIVER at AIRE. Company "A" was attached to Task Force "X", of Combat Command "A", 3rd Armd Div. The Bn (-"A" and "B" Co's) was attached to Task Force "Y", Combat Command "A", 3rd Armd Div. At 1145 hours, 8 July 44, orders were received by the Bn Comdr, from Combat Command "A", to move Company "C", via the bridge at AIRE, to positions along road, East of Road Junction at (471746), (South of ST JEAN DE DAYE). Bn Comdr ordered, one Platoon of Rcn Co, attached to Company "C". At 1215 hours, Bn Comdr, received information that Task Force "X", of Combat Command "A", was ordered to cross the VIRE RIVER. At 1411 hours the Bn established a Forward CP at coordinates (535749). At 1515 hours Company "A" was given the mission of assisting Company "C" in protecting the Crossroads, South of ST JEAN DE DAYE. Bn CP moved at 2030 hours to location one (1) Kilometer North West of AIRE, and remained here overnight.

On the 9 July 44, at 1530 hours, orders were received to move the Bn (less "A" and "B" Co's) to a position vicinity of RJ, South of ST JEAN DE DAYE, to meet reported enemy tank threat (report received of fifty (50) enemy tanks (Mk IV's) were moving North towards ST JEAN DE DAYE.) The Commanding General, Combat Command "A", rescinded the above order. At 1630 hours, elements of Company "B" were contacted, they reported they were progressing with little resistance. At 1730 hours, Bn (less "A" and "B" Co's) was directed to take up positions (with a Task Force composed of 1st Bn 32nd Armd Regt and one Company of Engrs), astride Cross roads, South of ST JEAN DE DAYE. Unit moved as ordered, but Company "C" was deployed North of road after consultation with Commanding Officer of 32nd Armd Regt, who was deployed to the South. On 9 July 44, at 1950 hours, the Bn CP moved to a new area (476749), South of ST JEAN DE DAYE.

At 0800 hours, 10 July 44, the Third Armored Division with Units attached, was attached to XIX Corps. Combat Command "A", with Company "A" this Bn, attached, 9th Inf Div. Combat Command "B" with Company "B", this Bn, attached 30th Inf Div. At 1200 hours, the Bn Tns moved forward, closed in Assembly Area, (596754), South of ST JEAN DE DAYE, vicinity of Bn CP. At 1830 hours, Company "A" (-2 Plts) returned to area in vicinity of Bn CP.

On 0300, 11 July 44, enemy shell fire landed on Bn CP. One (1) EM killed, two (2) wounded. One 1/4 ton truck destroyed by fire after a direct hit by enemy shell. Combat Command "A" sent a message at 0700, for Company "A" to prepare to move to LE DESERT by 0900 hours. At 0915 hours a radio intercept message was received "Enemy tanks in column moving North from Southwest of LE HOMET". At 1100 hours, received intercept message by radio "Small groups of enemy tanks moving towards ST JEAN DE DAYE". Company "C" was alerted, and at 1125 hours the 2nd Plt of Company "C" moved to take up position at (471750) North of LE DESERT.

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At 1130 hours the 3rd Plt of Co "C" deployed in depth to assist the 2nd Plt of "A" Company. Company "C" reported in position at 1138 hours, 1/2 mile South of LE DESERT. Orders were received at 1330 hours to prepare plans to use Company "C" as mobile reserve in the 9th Inf Div sector, to repel enemy tank threat. Situation as of 1130 hours, 11 July 44: Third Armored Division was attached to 9th Inf Div, in reserve. Company "A", this Bn, was attached to CC "A", 3rd AD. Company "B" this unit, was attached to CC "B", 3rd AD. Company "B" was reported advancing in the vicinity of HES VENTS-BELLE LAMPE.

At 2700 hours, 11 July 44 Company "A", reported the following locations: 1st Plt (469758), 2nd Plt (464759), 3rd Plt (476759).

Company "C" was attached to Combat Command "A", 3rd Arm'd Div, effective this date.

1st Plt Rcn Co this unit attached to Company "B" 703rd TD Bn.

3rd Plt Rcn Co this unit attached to Company "A" 703rd TD Bn.

Remainder of Rcn Co carried out reconnaissance missions generally west of ST JEAN DE DAYE.

At 0800, 12 July 44, Company "B" was strafed by friendly planes at HILL 91, (456696), Company was on an objective at the time waiting to be relieved by the Infantry. Two EM were wounded.

Other components of this Bn reported no movement or action, for this date.

On the 13th July 44 the Bn (-"B" Co) had no change in locations. At 1400 hours "A" and "C" Companies were still attached to CC "A", 3rd AD, Task Forces "X" and "Y" respectively, with TD Plts in separate teams of the Task Forces. "A" and "C" Companies were alerted at 2100 hours, to be prepared to move against possible German armored attack, reported in the vicinity of LE DESERT.

Company "B", this date remained attached to CC "B", 3rd AD. Two Plts having been in the vicinity of HES VENTS for the past three days, 1st Plt in the rear as reserve. Company "B" had been under continuous artillery and mortar fire and to date had suffered nine (9) casualties. 1 EM killed, and 1 seriously wounded. Two (2) M-10's had been put temporarily out of action and the company had to its credit one (1) Mk IV (confirmed) and had shared in another Mk IV with the Bazooka-men of the 30th Arm'd Inf Regt. The confirmed Mk IV Tank was destroyed by Direct-Indirect method at a range of 200 yards. Company had expended a total of forty-one (41) rounds of ammunition, including such targets as church steeples, OP's, MG nests, etc.

On the 14th July 44, no movement or operations took place. A study and test was made during the day of a possibility of using the L4 Aircraft as a means to check enemy armor reports, friendly troop movements, and communication between Air and Ground. Results were satisfactory.

Bn (-"A", "B" & "C" and 3 Plts of Rcn Co) on 15 July 44 remained under 3rd Arm'd Div control, located 2 Kilometers SE of ST JEAN DE DAYE, no activity. Company "A" remained attached to Combat Command "A", 3rd Arm'd Div, moved to positions West of BOIS DU HOMMET. 1st Plt, Company "A", formed part of a Battle Group within Task Force "X", Combat Command "A", 3rd Arm'd Div. Company "B" remained attached to Combat Command "B", 3rd Arm'd Div, supporting the attack of the 30th Inf Div, vicinity of HES VENTS. Company "C" remained attached to Combat Command "A", 3rd Arm'd Div and moved to position Southeast of BOIS DU HOMMET in reserve. Assignment of Rcn Co Plts remained the same: 1st Plt, Co "B", 2nd Plt, Co "C", 3rd Plt, Co "A".

Bn (-3 Co's and 3 Plts of Rcn Co) on 16 July 44, remained in the same location, no activity.

Company "A", remained integrated into Task Forces of CC "A", and moved from position of BOIS DU HOMMET into Assembly Area vicinity of LE DESERT. Company "B" remained attached to CC "B" on the 16 July 44, and moved from vicinity of HES VENTS to assembly area 1 1/2 Kilometers East of LE DESERT, (466734).

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At 1400 hours, moved with elements of the Combat Command to new Assembly Area in vicinity of BOIS DU HOMMET, approximately 4 miles West of LE DESERT. Company "C" remained attached to CC "A", 3rd AD, one Plt of Company "C", located in the vicinity of LE CHAMPS DE LOSQUE, with the mission of protecting the CC "B", Assembly Area from enemy tank threat from that direction. The Company had replaced "A" Company in position N.W. of BOIS DU HOMMET.

On 17 July 44, the Bn (less "A", "B", "C" and 3 Plts of Rcn Co) moved to vicinity of LE DESERT (442734), and closed in area at 0900 hours. There was no change in assignments or positions of companies.

On 18 July 44, there was no change in locations within the Bn, except the 3rd Plt, of "B" Company, who moved to vicinity of RJ at TRIEHOU (393745), and the 2nd Plt of "B" Company moved to vicinity of LA RANCEE (383737), to protect the Assembly Area of Combat Command "B", from possible enemy armor attack. Both "A" and "C" Companies received enemy artillery fire this date, suffered no casualties or damage.

Company "B" on the 19th July, was relieved from assignment with Combat Command "B", 3rd AD and moved to location of Bn CP. Company "B" was attached to Combat Command "A", 3rd AD, and the Rcn Plt was released to its own company control. Company "C" was attached to Combat Command "B", 3rd AD, and moved to position vacated by Company "B", to furnish AT protection for the Assembly Area of Combat Command "B". During the period 20 July through 24 July there was no movement or change in assignments of companies within the Bn. The time was spent in maintenance of vehicles, resting and making plans for Operations COBRA.

Bn CP (fwd) composed of Ex O, S-2, S-3, moved at 1400 hours, 25 July 44 from (442734) vicinity of LE DESERT to (453744) vicinity of Div Arty CP, closed in this new area at 1415. Companies "A" and "B" were attached to CC "A", 3rd AD, and remained in Assembly Areas, vicinity of LE DESERT. Company "C", attached to CC "B", 3rd AD, in vicinity of BOIS DU HOMMET, (384737-594749), continued to provide AT protection for the Assembly Area of CC "B". Company "C" was on a 2 hour alert, awaiting movement orders. Bn CP (rear), Rcn Co (-) and Tns located (442734), vicinity of LE DESERT. Company "A" with 1st Plt Rcn Co attached was located at (453736). Company "B" with 3rd Plt Rcn Co attached was located at (443735). Co "C", CP with 2nd Plt Rcn Co attached located at (415730). Company "C"'s Platoons were disposed as follows: 1st Plt (384737) vicinity LA MARE, 2nd Plt (412733) vicinity of Company CP, and the 3rd Plt (394749), vicinity of TRIEHOU. The Platoons of "A" and "B" Companies were integrated into Combat Groups of TF "X", CC "A", 3rd AD, as follows:

TF "X", Col DOANE, Comd:
Combat Group #1
3rd Plt, Co "A", 703rd TD Bn
Support for Combat Group #1
1st Plt, Co "A", 703rd TD Bn
Combat Group #2
2nd Plt, Co "A", 703rd TD Bn

TF "Y", Col CORNIG, Comd:
Battle Group #1
3rd Plt Co "B", 703rd TD Bn
Battle Group #2
Co CP and 1st Plt, Co "B", 703rd TD Bn
Battle Group #3
2nd Plt, Co "B", 703rd TD Bn

Note: Attached to "A" Co, 703rd TD Bn: Btry "A", 413th AAA Bn.

Attached to "B" Co, 703rd TD Bn: Btry "B", 413th AAA Bn.

Company "C" was attached to CC "B", 3rd AD, platoons integrated into Combat Teams as follows:

Combat Team #1
1st Plt, Co "C", 703rd TD Bn
Combat Team #2
2nd Plt, Co "C", 703rd TD Bn
Combat Team #3
CP and 3rd Plt, Co "C", 703rd TD Bn.

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On the 26th July 44, Bn CP (Fwd), (rear), Tns, "A", "B" and Ren Co (-) there was no change in situation or location. Companies "A" and "B" and Bn CP (Fwd) were placed on a one (1) hour alert at 0700 hours. Co "C" moved in attack with Combat Command "E", and at 1900 hours were reported at the following locations: 1st Plt at the eastern edge of MARIIGNY (389617), and were contemplating a movement to (383670). The 2nd Plt, on high ground at MARIE (384636). The 3rd Plt was located (386634), approximately two (2) Kilometers North of MARIIGNY. Company "C" suffered one personnel casualty, personnel wound in the shoulder. Reconnaissance Company, during the day established liaison at airfields vicinity LA MINE and ST JEAN DE DAYE. The Bn Comdr remained with the Bn CP (rear), intending to make use of aircraft, to check columns and reports of enemy armor.

The Third Armored Division, on 27 July 44, moved in attack at 0530 hours. Bn CP (fwd) moved with the CP of CC "A" and Div Arty to (424619), vicinity of ST GILLES arriving at 1750 hours. "A" Company CP with the 1st Plt of Ren Co attached, was located at (416594), vicinity of CANISY. Company "A" formed part of TF "X", CC "A", 3rd AD. 1st Plt, Co "A", located (417594), with the Company CP. 2nd Plt, Co "A" located (416583), vicinity of QUIECU. 3rd Plt location unknown. Company "B", with 3rd Plt, Ren Co attached did not move. Company "C" assisted Combat Command "E" in its progress throughout the day, and occupied the following platoon positions: CP and 1st Plt (307648), vicinity of MONTECUI. 2nd Plt (307619), vicinity CAMEROND. 3rd Plt (306613), vicinity RONCEY. Bn CP (rear), Tns and Ren Co (-), no change.

The Bn CP (fwd), with Div Arty CP moved to (391566), in the vicinity of DANCY. Bn Comdr joined the CP (fwd) at this location. Company "A", moved in attack with TF "X", CC "A", 3rd AD, and at 2100 hours was located vicinity of DALGY (384660). During the day Company "B" moved out with TF "Y", CC "A", 3rd AD, to occupy position, vicinity of DANCY. Company "C" continued with CC "B" in attack South and at dark were located as follows: CP and 1st Plt (307593), vicinity LA CHAPELLE. 2nd Plt (307618), vicinity of CALBONNE. 3rd Plt (306617) vicinity of RONCEY. Bn CP (rear), Ren Co (-), and Tns, no change. The area in vicinity of Bn CP (fwd) was bombed shortly after dark by enemy planes. No casualties or damage. Date: 28 July 44.

On the 29th July 44, the Bn CP (fwd) moved to vicinity of the Division CP (373670), vicinity of CARETILLY. Co "A", at 1400 hours was located as follows: CP and 1st Plt (303679), vicinity of CERISY LA SALLE. 3rd Plt (316541), vicinity of MONTPICHON. (On objective of TF "Z", CC "A", 3rd AD). During the day the company was credited with the destruction of 1 M4 V, 2-88mm guns, 1-81mm mortar, 1-car and truck and had fired on enemy Infantry counterattack. Ex ordina the following amount of ammunition: 11 mm APC, 90 mm HD. At 1700 hours Company "B", CP and 1st Plt was located at (370671), vicinity of POINT BROCARD. 2nd Plt was last reported at (370649), 2 Kilometers East of CERISY LA SALLE. 3rd Plt was out of contact and communication. Company "C", at 1400 hours moved from LA RICHARDEUSE to vicinity of LA VILLEBERIE, (353539). Platoons remained with Combat Team of Combat Command "E", 3rd Armad Div, Platoons furnished AF protection for Combat Command "E", Assembly areas. The 1st Plt located with Company CP. The 2nd Plt at (383641), and the 3rd Plt (316541). The Bn CP (rear), Ren Co (-) and Tns, no change in location or situation.

Bn CP (fwd) on 30 July 44 moved from vicinity of Division CP to area (310649), vicinity of ST DENIS LE BASST. During the day Company "A", moved forward to positions in vicinity of SNEHEBAST at 1315 hours. At 2200 hours located at (284628), N.W. of SAVRAY. "B" Company at 2200 hours located at (341671), vicinity of HAWKEYE (4 Kilometers NW), in column, waiting to move at 0300 hours. At 0100 hours, the 3rd Plt was located at (310649), vicinity LA BRUNIERE. Co "C", at 1400 hours was located as follows: 3rd Plt at (306630), S.W. of LA LOUPLIERE, no other information available.

The Bn CP (Rear), Rcn Co (-), Tns, no change in location.
Companies "A" and "B" moved forward in attack on night of 30 July 44.
Radio communication was very difficult, due to the distances between the
Companies. Companies often out of communication with the Battalion.
During the day Division had reorganized and the Companies of this Bn were
now attached as follows:

With CC "A", 3rd AD

Co "A" and 3rd Plt "B", 703rd TD Bn.

With CC "B", 3rd AD

Co "B" (-3rd Plt), and Co "C", 703rd TD Bn.

No change in assignment of Rcn Co platoons.

The Bn CP (Fwd) on 31 July 44 was still located at (312449), vicinity
of ST DENIS LE GAST. Company "A" (-2nd Plt) moved from vicinity of
GAVRAY (288488), to LE MESNIL GARNIER (327360), closing at approximately
1815 hours. The 2nd Plt of "A" Co was moving SE at a position 3 miles
NW VILLEDIEU LES POELLES about 1800 hours. Co "B" (-3rd Plt), moved from
(316455), NW of ST DENIS LE GAST to (357434), South of HAMBYE. No
contact with the 3rd Plt.

Co "C" (-3rd Plt) located at (371358), vicinity of VILLEDIEU LES POELLES,
3rd Platoon with Company "B", this unit.

Bn CP (rear), Rcn Co (-) and Tns, no change.

1st Plt of Co "C", destroyed in action today: 2 Mk V's (Panthers), 1
a probable, 1-75mm AT gun towed, and captured 2 prisoners.

The area surrounding Bn CP (fwd) was bombed by the enemy, shortly after
dark. No casualties or damage. Co "C" was bombed by LUFTWAFFE after
dark, no casualties or damage.