

HEADQUARTERS, 704TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 403, US Army  
14 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944

To : Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, 25, D. C.

Under the provisions of paragraph 10, AR 345-105; as changed by change number 3, the following After Action Report for this command is submitted:

On 1 October 1944, the Battalion (-) was in bivouac one mile west of Arrecourt, France. On this day the battalion CO, Lt. Colonel Heid was transferred to the 8th Tank Battalion and Major Dan C. Alexis was assigned to and joined the battalion and assumed command. "C" Company of the Battalion was in the line 700 yards north of Juvrecourt attached to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion Amored. At 1000, 1 October., "C" Company was relieved in the line by "B" Company.

During October maintenance work was accomplished and in spite of the lack of fuel our forward position the battalion was in far better maintenance condition by the end of the month. The battalion (-) remained in the bivouac area until 27 October 1944. On the 3rd October one platoon of "B" Company went into position for an indirect fire mission near Juvrecourt. Fired 45 rounds. On 5 October, "C" Company relieved "B" Company in the line at Juvrecourt at 0800. These positions were shelled daily during this period. On the 5th one casualty in "B" Company (LWA) resulted from the daily shelling. On 6th, the 3rd platoon was attached to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, and went into position one mile northeast of Rechicourt.

Red Cross clubmobile came to the battalion area. During the afternoon, by bringing the 3rd platoon relief it was possible to bring all men of the battalion over to get coffee and doughnuts at the clubmobile. This was the first clubmobile seen by the battalion since June in England. The 7th and the 3rd platoon of "A" Company was released from attachment to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, and rejoined the company. It had destroyed one enemy CP and one pillbox near Rechicourt. The battalion trains with Pioneer platoon of Red Company attached left the bivouac area 1310 and moved eleven miles west to new area, one mile east of Cerceuil closing in new area at 1400.

On the 9th October 1944, at 0900, "A" Company relieved "C" Company in the line at Juvrecourt. By this date all companies except the one in the line were operating company messes. The battalion received one replacement tank destroyer, M - 18 on 9 October, two on 10th, and one on the 11th Oct. "B" Company was attached to the 104th Infantry Regiment, 26th Division, but remained in the battalion area.

"B" Company suffered one casualty from artillery fire at Juvrecourt. At 2300, "C" Company fired 14 rounds indirect fire.

SECRET

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After Action Report for 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944. (Cont'd)

In the early morning of 15 October 1944, "A" Company position near Juvrecourt was shelled and the company suffered five casualties. One casualty was suffered in the attached Rcn platoon. "A" Company was relieved by "C" Company at 0800 and rejoined the battalion. At 1440 three ME 109's strafed the battalion area. All companies fired on the enemy planes and two were shot down. On 16 one casualty in "C" Company from enemy artillery fire. "B" Company took up indirect fire positions one mile northwest of Bezange la Grande supporting 255th FA attached to 328th Infantry Regiment. Major Hammer and Captain Treece were transferred to the battalion from 35th Tank Battalion. "C" Company in position at Juvrecourt as attached to the 101st Infantry Regiment. "B" Company from same position, executed several indirect fire missions. The battalion was attached to the 26th Infantry Division for operations.

On 20 October 1944, Captain Trover was assigned to and joined the battalion. "C" Company was relieved in the line at Juvrecourt and rejoined the battalion. 21 October 1944, "A" and "C" Company moved up behind line near Rechicourt at 1930 to support 26th Division attack. The attack jumped off from the line of departure East of Rechicourt 0600, 22 October. By 1400 the outskirts of Bezange la Petite had been reached. Lt Kellin, "A" Company was wounded and evacuated. On the 23rd "A" and "C" Companies remained in the line in close support. Both companies were heavily shelled both days. On the 23rd Lt. Preneta, CO of "A" Company was wounded and evacuated. In addition two enlisted men were wounded and evacuated from "A" Company, and one from "C" Company. On the 23rd Captain Smith was assigned to and joined "A" Company and assumed command. On this day "B" Company fired 75 rounds from its indirect fire position.

The positions of the battalion remained the same. The positions of "A" and "C" Companies were shelled each day but no casualties resulted. On the 24th a 1 1/2 ton truck of "C" Company hit a mine southeast of Rechicourt and one enlisted man was resulted injured and evacuated. On the 25th "A" Company was relieved by "B" Company and "A" Company was attached to 102nd FA for an indirect fire mission.

On 27 October the battalion was relieved from attachment to the 26th Division and reverted to its original attachment to the 4th Armored Division. The battalion was relieved in the line and at 0830, the battalion by companies started to move to a bivouac area in the rear. "B" and "C" Companies were relieved in the line by the 602nd TD Bn., and by 1515 the entire battalion was closed in the new bivouac area 15 miles to the West and 2 mile north of Lenoncourt.

On 28-31 the battalion was addressed by General Wood. The battalion is now attached to Reserve Command, 4th Armored Division. Maintenance and care of weapons and equipment now being stressed and the men given opportunity for recreation as much as possible. On the 28th a convoy of 13 enlisted men and one officer left for Paris, returning the evening of the 30. A daily convoy is being run into Nancy and two movies a day have been provided in Lenoncourt.

During the month the battalion lost the following officers by transfer, Lt. Colonel Heid, Major Hammer, Captain Treece. The following officers were wounded, Lt. Preneta, Lt. Kollin, Lt. Haimovitch was transferred out of the battalion due to illness from non battle causes. Major Alanis, Major Kinsey and Lt. Lane joined the battalion during the month.

Total casualties for the month were killed in action, none, and wounded in action 14. 39 Replacements and 22 returnees were received during the month. On 31 October the strength of the battalion was Officers 1, Enlisted Men 623.

For the Commanding Officer

WILLIAM L. KLINE  
2nd Lt., FA (TD)  
Adjutant

2 Incls:

Incl # 1 - S-3 Journal

Incl # 2 - Consolidated Report of Operations.

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