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HEADQUARTERS  
774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 403 US ARMY



1 January 1945

SUBJECT : After Battle Report, 774th TD Bn.

TO : Commanding General, XX Corps, APO 340, US Army (thru channels)

At the beginning of the period, 1 December 1944, the 774th TD Bn., less Company "C" and the 2nd Recon Platoon, continued its mission in support of the 378th Infantry, 95 Infantry Division, with additional mission of protecting the right flank of Corps against mechanized attack. Company "C" with 2nd Recon Platoon attached, was attached to Task Force Bell, 5th Infantry Division, operating in zone south of and adjacent to boundary of 378th Inf. The Battalion maintained close liaison with the 378th Infantry and moved the companies by bounds from one approach to the next as the advance continued. Shortly after noon, Task Force Bell was dissolved and Company "C" and 2nd Recon Platoon were ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Battalion CP, then located at Course (Q153674). Company "B" apprehended two prisoners at the close of the day in Hargarten (Q178700).

On 2 December 1944, continuing in support of the 378th Infantry, Company "A", leapfrogging Companies "B" and "C", moved into position in the vicinity of Merten (Q223728) where they apprehended two prisoners. The Battalion CP moved to vicinity of Remering (Q195745). Returning from an inspection of the newly occupied positions of Company "A", the Battalion Executive and S-3 apprehended three prisoners on road to Falck (Q198707).

On 3 December 1944, Company "B" was placed in close support of the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 378th Infantry and ordered to make daylight reconnaissance for gun positions on the west bank of the Saar River, south of Lisdorf (Q290785), gun positions from which they could bring direct fire neutralizing and/or destroying enemy held pillboxes on the east bank of the river. Company "C" was placed in close support of 3rd Battalion, 378th Infantry and ordered to reconnoiter and occupy gun positions on the west bank of the Saar River in Lisdorf (Q290785) from which they could deliver direct fire on enemy held pillboxes on the opposite side of the river. Company "A" was placed in position protecting south flank of 378th Infantry with platoons located at Bisten (Q254735), Berus (Q245745) and road junction south of Alt Forweiler (Q250758). 1st Recon Platoon was employed on exposed south flank of Company "B" with security mission. 2nd Recon Platoon was employed as armed security to gun positions of Company "C". The Battalion CP moved to Berus (Q245745). During hours of darkness, companies occupied and organized positions prepared to support river crossing at daybreak the following morning.

On 4 December 1944 Company "B", supporting 1st and 2nd Battalion, 378th Infantry, fired on pillboxes and enemy strongpoints as requested by the respective battalions; and also on targets of opportunity. During the day, Company "B" expended 363 rounds of HE and 645 rounds of AIC ammunition. Known damage included: one enemy machine gun, one artillery piece, one enemy CP, one pillbox and six pillboxes neutralized to permit the advance of the Infantry. Throughout the day the Company's positions were subjected to

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continuous heavy enemy artillery fire and losses incurred included one M killed and four wounded. Material damaged - one M-20, one radio \$10, one truck 1 1/2 ton, two jeeps. Company "C" fired at targets requested by the 3rd Battalion, 378th Infantry, expending 447 rounds APC and 87 rounds HE ammunition. Effect of fire - one enemy pillbox definitely destroyed, several others neutralized. Company "A" fired twelve rounds HE on enemy mortar position; effect - enemy mortar neutralized.

From the period 5 December 1944 to 17 December 1944 the Battalion remained in close support of 378th Infantry, and continued firing as requested on enemy held pillboxes and strongpoints on the east bank of the Saar River, vicinity of Insdorf (Q302790). By close coordination between our companies and the Infantry Battalion Commanders and Bn. and Regimental Commanders, the Bn. was able to furnish immediate and extremely accurate fire on points of resistance delaying the infantry advance. Many of the gun positions were of necessity in full view of the enemy and were constantly subjected to heavy artillery and mortar fire. Notwithstanding the precariousness of their positions, the crews stuck by their guns and delivered deadly accurate fire when and where requested. Because of the ability to neutralize and/or destroy enemy fortifications impeding our infantry's advance, the Battalion was of great assistance in the establishment and maintaining of the 378th Infantry Bridgehead across the Saar River.

On 18 December 1944 the Battalion relieved from mission supporting 378th Infantry was assembled in the vic. of Merten (Q224731) and prepared to move on short notice to III Corps.

On 19 December 1944 the Battalion was attached to the 4th TD Group and placed in support of Task Force Polk, located at Mandern (Q058952). Battalion departed assembly area and assembled at Sierck (Q032946) in the zone of the 3rd Cavalry Group. Reconnaissance was immediately initiated for gun positions as follows: One platoon at Besch (L013015), one platoon in the vicinity of Bickendorf (Q078991), one platoon at Buseldorf (Q091978), one platoon at Ober Tunsdorf (Q103975) and one company on secondary mission in the vicinity of Marschweiler (Q045975). Immediately upon completion of reconnaissance, Battalion was ordered to occupy positions as reconnoitered.

On 20 December 1944 the Battalion, at 1145 hours, received verbal orders from Commanding Officer, 4th TD Group as follows: To assemble Battalion in the vicinity of present CP and move without delay to join III Corps, located at Arlon (P610220), Belgium, CO to precede Battalion for instructions. By 1330 hours the companies were assembled and ordered for Battalion movement. Battalion departed assembly area vicinity of Sierck (Q032946) at 1415 hours and proceeded without mishap to Bergem (L773042), Luxembourg, where it found roads in use by the 26th Infantry Div. Because of congested road conditions Battalion bivouacked in nearby villages, prepared to again proceed upon instructions of the Battalion Commander.

On 21 December 1944 at 1300 hours the Battalion Commander returned to CP, then located at Bergem (L773042), Luxembourg, with instructions that Battalion was attached to 90th Infantry Division, then holding northern portion of XX Corps front along Saar River, and that Battalion was further attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group (Task Force Polk) and would return immediately to assembly area vicinity of Sierck (Q032946). Battalion closed at Sierck (Q032946) at 1615 hours where it remained for the night.

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On 22 December 1944 orders were received for employing Battalion as follows: One Recon Platoon and one TD Platoon at Besch (LO13015), one TD platoon at Wechen (LO39012), one TD platoon at Berg (LO62006), one TD platoon at Hellendorf (LO75990), one TD platoon at Wft (LO65982), one TD platoon at Apach (LO14985), one Company ("B") attached to 358th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, and employed in their sector, and one reconnaissance platoon remain in reserve in vicinity of Battalion CP.

From the period 23 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, the Battalion continued its mission, that of providing anti-mechanized protection to the north flank of the Corps with the guns disposed in depth from OPL to MLI; also gun positions in first and second delaying zones had been selected together with routes thereto. During this period the Battalion apprehended nine prisoners of war.

CONRAD B. STURGES  
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Commanding



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