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HEADQUARTERS
774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

1 December 1944



SUBJECT : After Battle Report.

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

On 1 November 1944 the 774th TD Bn, attached to the 4th TD Gp, was employed in the sector of the XX Corps as follows: Co. "A" with CP at Batilly (U715635) had 1st Plat. employed on primary mission in position vic. of (U715640), 2nd and 3rd Platoons performing secondary mission in support of Co. "C", 807th Bn. in position at (U72660) and (U715655) respectively. Company "B", with CP north of Mars la Tours (U658595) had 2nd Platoon performing secondary mission, supporting fires of the 344th F. A. Battalion from positions at (U702554) and 1st and 3rd Platoons performing primary missions from positions at (U708602) and (U22579) respectively. Company "C" with CP at Gerze (U730070) had 1st Platoon performing secondary mission, supporting fires of 344th F. A. Bn. from position at (U700550), 2nd Platoon in primary positions in the vicinity of Gerze (U730510) and 3rd Platoon in primary positions in the vicinity of Neveant (U770489). 1st Reconnaissance Platoon furnished additional security for the 3rd Platoon, Co. "C" and manning OP's north of Neveant (U770489). The 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon manned OP's at (U752517) and (U748521) in the area of Company "C". Battalion CP and Aid Station were located at Trenville (U674555). The Battalion Rear Echelon was at Spenville (U610544).

Company "B" fired two harrassing missions expending 17 rounds, HE. Company "C" fired one observed mission, 35 rounds HE on Ft. Briant (U775530) and one harrassing mission of 12 rounds HE.

Spasmodic enemy artillery fire reported falling in all Company areas during the day. There were no casualties or material damage.

There was no change in the Battalion's disposition on 2 Nov. 44 and Co. "B" fired six missions, three harrassing and three interdiction, expending 82 rounds HE. Company "C" fired three observed missions on Ft. Briant (U775530) expending 65 rounds HE.

Two flying bombs passed over positions of Company "A", moving in a southerly direction

On 3 Nov. 44 Company "B" fired seven harrassing missions, expending 78 rounds HE. Company "C" fired six harrassing missions, expending 62 rounds HE. No other activity was reported during the day.

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On 4 November 1944 Company "C" fired one observed counter battery mission, expending 122 rounds HE. Observer reported three enemy field pieces were silenced. Company "B" fired five observed missions, expending 44 rounds HE on forts in the Jeanne d'Arc (U778558) and Briant (U7818760) groups. Fire from these forts neutralized during concentrations. The 1st Platoon captured one German prisoner at Nevaux (U770489). The 3rd Platoon, Company "C", apprehended one civilian suspect and placed him in the 10th Armored Division's PWG.

On 5 November 1944, during the hours of darkness extending from 4 November to 5 Nov. 1944, Company "C" fired eight harrasing missions, expending 68 rounds HE.

Orders were received from XX Corps Artillery, through CO, 4th TD Gp, attaching the Battalion to 95th Infantry Division. The Battalion Commander reported to 95th Infantry Division for instructions and was ordered to place one platoon in position in the vicinity of Uckange (U8579), positions to be occupied prior to dawn, 6 November 1944.

At 1400 the Battalion received verbal orders from CO, 4th TD Gp that it was relieved from attachment to the 95th Infantry Division and was attached to the 5th Infantry Division. All Companies assembled in vicinity of respective CP's and prepared to move to positions in 5th Infantry Division sector on Divisional orders. At 1600, Co. "A" was ordered to place two platoons in position east of the Moselle River. The 3rd Platoon was placed in primary position in the vicinity of Ceray (U774486) and the 2nd Platoon was placed in primary position at (U777465). The platoons closed into assigned positions at 1800 hours.

Company "C" fired six interdiction missions, expending 52 rounds, HE.

On 6 November 1944 the remainder of the Battalion moved into the 5th Infantry Division sector and upon arrival thereat was placed in support of the 11th Infantry and was assigned the mission of furnishing anti-mechanized protection to the north flank of the 5th Infantry Division's bridgehead, east of the Moselle River, south of Metz. Company "B" and two platoons, Co. "A", were placed in position protecting approaches in the assigned sector and Company "C", with one platoon of Co. "A", was placed in indirect firing positions in support of the 19th F. A. Battalion.

On 7 November 1944, during the hours of darkness extending from 6 November to 7 Nov. 1944, Co. "C" fired ten harrasing missions, expending 119 rounds, HE. Targets consisted mainly of enemy held villages, north and east of the bridgehead. 1st Platoon, Company "A" was removed from secondary and placed in primary position south of 3rd Platoon, Company "A" at (U768453), thereby adding depth to the anti-mechanized defense along the most probable armored approach.

During the hours of darkness from 7 Nov. to 8 November 1944, Company "C" fired ten harrasing missions on enemy held villages north and east of the bridgehead with 114 rounds HE expended.

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Upon verbal orders of the Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division Artillery, the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", was relieved of secondary mission and placed in position in the vicinity of Arnville (U761472) to cover the north approach to the 5th Infantry Division bridgehead west of the Moselle River.

Company "C" fired eight observed missions, expending 70 rounds, HE on targets of opportunity including: tanks, pillbox and Infantry. Favorable results were obtained on Infantry target.

On 9 November 1944, Company "C" fired one mission (registration) expending 19 rounds HE. The remainder of the Battalion continued close support of the 11th Infantry and organization of positions.

On 10 November 1944 the Companies were placed in close support of 11th Infantry as follows: Co. "A", supporting the 3rd Battalion; Company "B", with 1st Recon Platoon attached, supporting 2nd Battalion; Company "C", with 2nd Recon Platoon attached, supporting 1st Battalion. The Companies were ordered to maintain close liaison with respective Infantry Battalions and to displace platoons forward by bounds as Infantry advanced to the north toward Metz.

From the period 11 November 1944 to 22 November 1944 the Battalion furnished close support to the 11th Combat Team in its successful attack on the fortress city of Metz and at the close of the operation elements of the Battalion were in positions in the outskirts of the city itself. Company "C", at a range of 400 yards, by firing A.P.C. wdf, had succeeded in effecting a penetration into Ft. St. Privat (U846552).

A total of 32 prisoners were taken during the operation together with German equipment in the amount of four 37 mm AT guns, one 60 mm. mortar, and four light machine guns being destroyed.

On 22 November 1944 the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 5th Infantry Division and was attached to the 4th TD Group. Companies assembled and prepared movement to any sector.

Three prisoners were captured by the 3rd Platoon, Company "C" in the vicinity of Arnville (U755472).

On 23 November 1944 the Battalion remained in assembly positions. The entire day was spent in maintenance of material and caring of personnel equipment. The 3rd Platoon, Company "C", captured 2 prisoners.

On 24 November, upon verbal orders of the CO, 4th TD Group, the Battalion was placed in general support of the 378th Infantry Combat Team, 95th Infantry Div., operating on the right flank of the XX Corps. The Battalion was assigned additional mission of anti-mechanized protection on the right flank of the XX Corps.

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On the 25th of November 1944 the Battalion moved from assembly positions to positions on the right flank of the 378th Infantry, the Battalion CP closing into Freecourt (Q040540) at 1630. The reconnaissance platoons were assigned mission of reconnoitering in advance of the gun positions.

On the 26th of November 1944, as 378th Infantry advanced, Company "B" was leapfrogging into position at Zandrang (Q115779). Companies were as follows- Company "C" remained as disposed. Company "A" occupied positions at Guerting (Q187664) and closed in at 1200. The First Recon Platoon reconnoitered positions at Zimring (Q259516) and captured one prisoner dressed as a civilian. The First Recon Platoon reconnoitered southeast of Oberwise (Q170620) and received small arms fire - rifles and machine guns. Fire was returned by reconnaissance personnel, resulting in two enemy killed. At 1800 the Battalion CP closed into Harlange (Q080586).

On 27 November 1944, Co. "C" plus the Second Recon platoon was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry and moved into position in 3rd Battalion sector at Langville (Q200580).

The Second Recon Platoon was given the mission to maintain contact with the 378th Infantry on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry. Co. "B" moved to positions in the vicinity of Niebervisse (Q150638), closing into position at 1540. The Battalion CP closed into Coume (Q153672). Co. "B" captured one prisoner.

On 28 November 1944, the First Recon Platoon contacted enemy infantry $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Ham (Q220857) and in the ensuing action 1 prisoner was taken and 20 enemy killed. The First Recon Platoon suffered no casualties. Company "B" moved to positions in the vicinity of Hargarten (Q176703).

On 29 November 1944 Company "B" expended 80 rounds, HE, direct fire into the enemy held positions in the town of Falk (Q200696), in support of friendly infantry attacking the village.

On 30 November 1944 there was no change in disposition of Battalion and no activity reported.

CONRAD B. STURGES
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry
Commanding