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1 October 1944

FROM: After Battle Report.

TO: Commanding General, Corps, AFV Bde, US Army.
 Also: Historical Section (thru Channels)

The Battalion remained in the vicinity of Bruyery (4375740) until approximately 1200 hours on 1 September 1944, then moved, following BT 10, 5th Inf. Div. and bivouaced for the night approximately 2 miles southeast of Varennes (0003727). En route 2 prisoners were captured by Company "A". While the Battalion was en route to Varennes word was received that an undetermined enemy element was located just east of Varennes. The 1st Recon Platoon was ordered by Col. Hall, CG, BT 10, to make reconnaissance in this vicinity to determine strength and exact location of reported enemy elements. This reconnaissance revealed that there was no enemy between Varennes and Cort-Falcon (0110700). Orders from the same source were then received by this Platoon to block the northwest escape route of approximately 500 enemy troops (sic) reported at Avocourt (0113703). This Platoon established a road block east of Creppy (0073713) and southeast of Vory (0073713) and took under fire an enemy patrol attempting to escape via this route. Result was one enemy captured, one killed, one wounded and the remainder withdrew.

Upon orders of the AFV Commander, this Platoon was reinforced by a D Company (Co. "D"). Both the company and Platoon remained in position during the night and captured 2 prisoners prior to dawn.

At 1315, 2 September, the Battalion moved eastward, Co. "C" and 1st Recon Platoon, following en route, crossed the Meuse River and bivouaced approximately 2 miles NW of Vertun (3279.85).

The Battalion remained in this location for the period 2 Sept. to 3 Sept., when it was released from attachment to BT 10, 5th Inf. Div. and moved to Corps Artillery Concentration Area in vicinity of Bernville (0110.5) where it bivouaced for the night.

At 1500 on 7 September 1944, the Battalion received information of an enemy armored column moving south toward Bazailles (0570917), threatening the north flank of the 9th Inf. Div. The Battalion received verbal orders from the 5th AB Co. to send liaison to Co. 007th TD Bn., located 1 mile west of Army (0560764) and determine from CG of this Battalion information concerning the reported armor and whether additional support was needed to properly cover the threatened zone. Support was requested by Co. 007th TD Bn. and upon verbal orders from the CG, 5th AB Co., 1st Recon Platoon and Company "D", of this organization, at 2115, were ordered to support 007th as requested by them. The rest of the Battalion remained in its location for the night.

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At 0900 on 8 September 1950, the Co. Co. "C", received orders from the 607th TD Bn. to employ his company as follows: 1 platoon in the vic. of North of Bavierville (U23790), 1 platoon east of Torroy (U585768); and 1 platoon with attached 1st Lt., to proceed from their location to Landres (U00820) by way of Joudreville (U577780) and Fimras (U585800). Upon receipt of these orders the Co. of Co. "C" made disposition of his Company as follows: 2nd platoon was placed on high ground north of Bavierville (U23790), 3rd platoon was placed in position on high ground between Torroy & Joudreville (U585768); 1st platoon, supported by 1st Sen Plt., was assigned mission of occupying position in vicinity of Landres (U00820). Co. Co. "C", then recommended that another Co. be sent as a reserve. Co. "A" was assigned this mission and arrived in reserve position west of Torroy at U585762 at approximately 1100 hours. The 2nd platoon, in position north of Bavierville (U23790) observed an enemy column, about 0310, consisting of armored vehicles and M4 tanks, approaching Torroy (U585800) from the west. Platoon opened fire on this enemy column and as a result destroyed 2 M4 tanks and 2 armored vehicles, without damage to themselves. At approximately 0930, 3rd platoon, in position west of Torroy (U585762), captured a M4 tank when crew surrendered after two mortar missions from their guns. 1st Sen Plt. and 1st Td Plt., en route to Landres (U00820) destroyed 2 M4 tanks and 2 half-tracks north of Joudreville (U577780) and captured 14 prisoners.

The Battalion received verbal orders from the 607th TD Bn to protect the 90th's supply route from possible armored attack from north on avenues of approach from the north. Co. "B" was assigned this mission and established road blocks along these approaches from Stain (U47771) to Verdun (U30000).

The remainder of the Battalion at approximately 1230 moved to vic. of 1st crossing, 2 miles west of Bavierville (U570721), and Co. "D" was headquartered to assemble in that area at 1430. The Battalion remained so disposed during the night.

At 1200, 9 Sept. 50, the Battalion received orders placing them in general support of the 90th Inf. Div. with mission to protect the north and rear flank of 90th Div. At 1000 the Battalion moved to 1 mile west of Torroy (U585768). Upon arrival the 607th TD Bn reverted to the control of Co. "C", with 2 platoons, was ordered to defend the Engineer road blocks at Torroy-la-Haut (U585870) and Torroy-la-Bas (U580890), with third platoon remaining in its present position. Co. "A" was ordered to send one platoon to Avril (U715730) and the remaining two platoons were ordered into position on the high ground south of Andarmy (U550825). Co. "B" was ordered to place road blocks on avenues of approach in the rear of the Division sector.

1st Sen Plt. remained attached to 1st Lt. of Co. "C" and remained in support of their defense of the Engineer road blocks.

On 10 Sept 50, Co. "C" remained in defense of Engineer road blocks. Co. "A" remained in its positions, and at 1500, Co. "B" was assembled and moved with remainder of Battalion to vicinity of Trieux (U081811). After arrival at Trieux, 1st Sen Plt. was recalled and placed in Bn. reserve in vic. of Bn. CP. Prior to return to 1st Sen Plt., 9 members of a crew of a flying fortress (3 M4s and 3 M1) which had crash-landed behind enemy lines north of Torroy-la-Bas (U585805), were recovered and delivered to G-3, Air, 90th Div.

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At 1700, Co. "B" was ordered into support of 7th Inf. Div. in vic. of Doncourt (U 96020) and upon arrival thereof they were assigned mission of placing guns along likely avenues of approach to the city.

On 11 Sept., Co. "C" exchanged a few rounds of small arms fire with an enemy patrol in vic. of Roy-In-Bert (U 28800), resulting in one prisoner captured and forcing remainder, estimated at 30, to withdraw to north. 2d Lt. Co. "C", at 2100 was ordered into position in vic. of Aiden (U 60007) to cover armor attacks from the north and westward. The remainder of the Battalion remained as previously disposed. (Co. "A" captured 2 prisoners)

On 12 Sept., at 0600, Co. "D", was ordered to defend Engineer road-blocks at Amble (U 68920) and crossroads vic. of Cressange (U 70902), and while en route Co. "D" was given verbal orders, 08, with 1st Lt. to proceed in vic. of Pn. 3. Battalion was informed that it was relieved of support of 9th Div. and placed in general support of the 5th Corps with the mission of defending awarded avenues of approach along the 7th Arm. Div. front. Battalion at 1400 moved to 1 mile west of Doncourt (U 70020)

Immediately upon arrival at Doncourt, Co. Commanders were sent to reconnoiter for new positions to cover the Engineer road blocks and minefields along the 7th Arm. Div. front. Co. Commanders submitted over a map of proposed new positions and were ordered to immediately occupy same.

Commander remained in position on the 13th Sept and the only activity reported was presence of enemy artillery which landed in Co. "C"'s sector, also Co. "C" captured 2 prisoners.

On 14 Sept. all Companies remained in position until 1930 at which time the forward elements of all Companies were ordered to withdraw because enemy artillery fire was falling in their sectors.

Companies remained in position on 15 Sept without activity.

On 16 Sept. 1st, at 0600, the Pn. was relieved of attachment to 5th TD Co. and ordered to replace 810th TD Pn., attached to 5th Inf. Div. Since all companies of both units were employed it was necessary to take a platoon from platoon section of Co. "B" after Co. "B" had exchanged positions with 810th TD Pn., Battalion, less A and C Companies moved to 2 miles E of Gorge (U 710514) on My V.O. in vic. of Div. Artillery CP at 1530. Pn. was ordered that no further change could be effected until such time as the 5th TD Co. had crossed the Moselle River.

1st Plat. of Co. "B" was assigned the mission by 5th Div. Artillery of delivering indirect, harassing fire on enemy held territory in vic. of Metz (U 0580). 651 rounds were fired on this mission during the night. At 2300 Pn. was notified by 5th Div. Artillery that Co. "A" was released in its present position to Pn. control at 0700 the following morning.

Co. "A" was ordered at 0700 to assemble and move across the Moselle River on south Engineer bridge at 0900 (U 53013) effective upon the crossing of Co. "A", Lt. Col. Sturges assumed command of Co. "A", 77th TD Pn and Co.'s "B" and "C" of 810th TD Pn and Lt. Col. Hale, CO, 810th TD Pn., assumed command of Co. "A", 810th TD Pn and Co.'s B and C of 77th TD Pn.

1st Co. Plat accompanied Co. "A" in the river crossing. Co. "A" was assigned the mission of protecting the 5th Inf. Div. bridgehead (U 51773) south of Metz, paying particular attention to approaches from the north and

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northeast. 1st platoon (B) was put in direct support of 1st Platoon. No other changes were made in disposition of Battalion during the day.

Co. "C" was ordered by 5th Div. Artillery to occupy position vacated by 2nd Platoon (B) and be prepared to fire 100 rounds HE during the night. Co. "C" was assigned was not available. This fact was reported and 2-3, Div. Artillery notified. Co. "C" would not fire during the night.

On 18 Sept 44, Co. "C" was ordered to make ready for positions in vic. of Metz at darkness. 2nd Platoon, Co. "C", occupied the position assigned and during the night fired 25 rounds indirect fire on targets in vicinity of Metz assigned (080580) by 5th Div. Artillery. No other changes in disposition of the Battalion.

On 19 Sept, Co. "B" vacated its positions in vicinity of St. Marie-aux-Mines (074072) and was ordered to occupy position in vicinity of Verville (073028) and be prepared to perform their secondary mission. Co. "B" was ordered to occupy position east of Doncourt (083028) to cover unnumbered approaches from the east. Co. "A" was ordered to place one platoon in position and be prepared to deliver indirect fire on targets in Metz and Vic. (080580). Co. "C" fired 9 rounds attempting adjustment before dark, but ceased firing before adjustment was reached because the observer could no longer see target due to approaching darkness.

Co. "A" fired 330 rounds HE on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery in their sector (073052)

On 20 Sept 44 there was no change in disposition of Battalion, and during the night Co. "A" fired 195 rounds HE on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. Co. "B", using one platoon, fired 108 rounds HE on targets in Metz area assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. (080580)

On 21 Sept companies remained in their present positions all day and after darkness 1st Platoon, Co. "A" occupied previously prepared firing positions and delivered indirect, harassing fire, 432 rounds HE, into enemy lines in vic. of Metz (080580)

On 22 Sept 44 there was no change in disposition of unit and the only combat activity was the firing of 150 rounds by the 2nd Platoon of A Co. The 23d was the same as the 22nd except that 100 rounds HE were fired by 2nd Platoon of A Co. on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery in vic. of Metz (080580). The 24th of Sept had the 2nd Platoon of A Co. again firing 100 rounds of HE on targets in Metz area (080580)

At 0800 25 Sept 44, the 77th ID and 21st AF Bns reverted to their respective Commanders control and 77th ID Bn, less Co. "B" was attached to 5th Div. and given mission to protect the north flank of the bridgehead both east and west of the Moselle R. Co. "C" was ordered from its secondary position west of Verville (073028) to assemble in vic. of Metz near echelon (715515) Co. "C" closed into this position at 2100. 2d Platoon, Co. "A", fired 555 rounds HE on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery in Metz Area. On the 24th of Sept, upon the verbal orders of G3, 5th Div. Artillery, Co. "C" was moved to the west bank of Moselle R. to protect the north flank of 5th Div. bridgehead south of Metz. 1st Platoon was relieved by 2nd Platoon in their positions on the north flank of the beachhead, east of the Moselle R., south of Metz.

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Co. "A" fired 500 rounds in indirect harassing fire on targets in vic. of Metz.

On the 27th Sept the Companies remained as discussed and 2d Plat., Co. "A", fired 200 rounds on enemy positions south of Metz. (Harassing fire).

On 28, Sept. 1944 the Companies continued to remain in their primary positions and during the hours of darkness 1st Platoon, Co. "A", fired 200 rounds indirect, harassing fire into the enemy positions south of Metz. Pt. Capt. Sp. and Pn. War Relocation moved west of the Moselle River to the Vic. of Breuville (780548)

On 29 Sept Companies continued organization of positions and selected alternate positions. 2d Plat., Co. "C" fired 200 rounds in harassing fire during the night.

On 30 Sept Companies continued organization of primary and alternate positions during the day and 3d Platoon, Co. "C" again fired 200 rounds in harassing fire into enemy held territory south of Metz.



G. EDWARD T. STUBBS
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Commanding

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