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HEADQUARTERS
77th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 103, U. S. ARMY

3 September 1944



SUBJECT: Battalion History, Month of August 1944.

TO : Commanding General, XX Corps, APO 340, U. S. Army.
(Att: Historical Section)

1. On 4 August 1944, the 77th TD Bn. (Towed), commanded by Lt. Col. CONRAD B. STUBBS, departed home station, Arbury Park, near Stratton, England at 0700 by motor convoy. The Battalion closed the Marshalling Area, vicinity Lorchamton, England at 2300 and was billeted in Area D-7. The entire day of 5 August was spent in Marshalling Area preparing for overseas movement.

2. Battalion departed Marshalling Area at 1115 6 August and had completed loading from hards, vicinity Wyke Regis at 1630. The Battalion, loaded aboard three LST's, sailed at 0600 7 August and after an uneventful Channel crossing arrived at Utah Beach at 0200 8 August. The Battalion completed debarkation by 0900 and proceeded immediately to Transit Area B where it received informal verbal orders, Headquarters Third Army that it would move immediately on a combat mission to repulse an attempted breakthrough by German armor in the direction of Avranches. The Battalion then proceeded south under MP escort to the vicinity of Villeduieu where it bivouacked for the night.

3. During the night information was received that the armored breakthrough had been stopped and that the Battalion was attached to XX Corps, and further attached to 4th TD Group, then located at Vergal. The following morning the Battalion moved to join the 4th TD Group at its bivouac and remained there the rest of the day.

4. On 10 August Battalion moved into Corps Assembly with Corps Artillery in vicinity of Vaiges. The Battalion furnished one Reconnaissance Platoon as security for Corps Artillery Reconnaissance Party in their reconnaissance and selection of positions. The Platoon made no enemy contacts and returned to Battalion the following morning. In the afternoon, Battalion moved to a new location, vicinity of Chasseille where it remained the night. The following day, 12 August, the following mission was assigned by the Commanding Officer, 4th TD Group: To reconnoitre the ground between St. Suzanne and Le Mans with a view to preparing plans to meet any armored attack from the north or northeast.

5. Prior to completion of this mission the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 4th TD Group and attached to 317th Combat Team, 80th Infantry Division. The mission of the 80th Infantry Division at this time was to advance to the north and seize and secure high ground in the vicinity of Argentan. Battalion moved immediately to assembly with the 317 CT vicinity Evron. The following day, 13 August, 317 CT moved out at 0700 on its assigned mission. The 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon of this Battalion, with mission to reconnoitre routes east and west of main route, advanced to their maximum limits and Company "A" of this unit in the 317CT Advance Guard. The remainder of the Battalion followed the 3rd Bn. in the main body. During the advance to Pre en Pail the Reconnaissance Platoon

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suffered two casualties and lost one M-8 due to enemy mines at Villaines, and Company "A" in the same vicinity took two prisoners. The 317 CT advanced to vicinity Pre en Pail and Battalion assembled in this vicinity for the night. The first Reconnaissance Platoon had previously captured two and killed one enemy sniper at this spot.

6. On 14 August Battalion was relieved from attachment to 317 CT and attached to XX Corps and 4th TD Group and ordered to proceed at once to an assembly point in the vicinity of La Ferte Bernard. Battalion closed in bivouac at Lamay late that day. Prior to leaving bivouac in vicinity of Pre en Pail, 120 German Infantry were reported to be approaching our bivouac from vicinity of Grènes. Company "C" and the 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon were left as a rear guard and in the ensuing action thirteen prisoners were taken and one enemy killed.

7. With the 4th TD Group whose mission was to furnish the 7th Armored Division direct or indirect fire on call, Battalion moved by bounds to vicinity of La Loupe where it bivouacked for the night. On 16 August Battalion continued its mission to the northeast and moved by bounds to vicinity Nogent le Roi. En route, Battalion was strafed by enemy aircraft. No casualties suffered. During that day, Battalion took five prisoners. Late this evening, 4th TD Group, along with Battalion was attached to Combat Command A of the 7th Armored Division whose mission was to encircle Chartres from the northeast. One Reconnaissance section and one platoon of Company "B" was assigned a mission to protect the column from enemy tanks which had been reported north of Favorolles. Battalion arrived at its new assembly area south of Epernon the following morning. Battalion remained in this location throughout the day and was again strafed by enemy aircraft. No casualties suffered. In addition 14 prisoners were captured.

8. Shortly after midnight on the 17-18 August an enemy patrol consisting of 18 men approaching the Battalion bivouac was surprised by Company "A" resulting in one enemy killed and seventeen captured. That afternoon, 18 August, Battalion moved to Corps Reserve in the vicinity of Tremblay, having been relieved of attachment to CCA, 7th Armored Division. While in Corps Reserve, this Battalion, together with one Battalion of infantry was designated as Corps Reserve Troops.

9. On 19 August at 0500 Battalion received mission from 4th TD Group to reconnoitre and make plans for employment to protect bridgehead held by 7th Armored Division at Dreux. On 20 August Battalion was relieved of mission as Corps Reserve and moved with 4th TD Group through Chartres to bivouac in vicinity of Sours. During the night another enemy group attempted to pass through the Battalion area, resulting in two enemy killed and sixteen prisoners taken.

10. The following morning, 21 August, Battalion moved south to assembly area vicinity of Sainville where the Battalion received orders to attach one company (Co. "B") to the 13rd Cavalry, a part of the 3rd Cavalry Group, with mission to protect the north flank of the 7th Armored Division in its assault toward Melun. The remainder of the Battalion was attached to Combat Command B, 7th Armored Division and assigned the mission of protecting combat command trains. The Battalion joined CCB, 7th Armored Division in Rambouillet and moved during the night to vicinity of Bandoufle arriving thereat on the morning of 23 August. The Battalion established a perimeter of defense around combat command trains and remained in this position until after the middle of the afternoon at which time it moved forward, continuing its mission of protecting the trains to Fontenay le Comte. The



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Battalion remained in this vicinity until approximately 2030 and then moved forward with the trains to the vicinity of Auvencourt. One prisoner was captured during the night.

11. At daylight, 25 August, the Battalion, having completed its mission with CCB, 7th Armored Division was relieved from CCB and again attached to 4th TD Group in Corps Reserve, and moved during the day to bivouac in the Forest of Fontainebleau, Battalion remaining in Forest of Fontainebleau for the night of 25 August and moving the following morning south and east to the vicinity of Miant in support of the 10th Combat Team, 5th Infantry Division in its drive eastward along the south bank of the Seine. At this point, one company (Co. "A") was attached to the 1139 Engineer Group to protect the building of a pontoon bridge across the Seine River south of Fontainebleau. The remainder of the Battalion moved during the day across the Yonne River to Misy and bivouacked one mile north thereof.

12. The Battalion moved from this location 27 August to vicinity of Fontaine where it again bivouacked for the night. 28 August the Battalion moved to St. Loup and was joined en route by Company "A" who reported on their return the capture of one prisoner and no further enemy action. On arrival at St. Loup the Reconnaissance Platoon was given a mission to make a reconnaissance of the surrounding area during which enemy resistance was encountered in a wooded area southeast of Gays. As a result of this action, one enemy half-track and certain amounts of ammunition were destroyed. We suffered one man injured. The Battalion then moved to the vicinity of Vertus where it bivouacked for the night.

13. The following morning, 29 August, the two Reconnaissance Platoons and one TD Platoon (Co. "G") were sent to reconnoiter the area south of Gays and north of Anglure where enemy in strength from three to five hundred had been reported. During this reconnaissance, 26 prisoners were taken, and three American soldiers from Company "F", 10th Infantry Regt., 5th Infantry Division were released from enemy captivity. No casualties were suffered during the performance of this mission.

14. The Battalion remained in the same location and during the night another enemy patrol of thirteen men was surprised attempting to pass through the Battalion area. Ten prisoners were taken and one enemy killed.

15. On 30 August Battalion moved to the vicinity of Frunzy remaining there a few hours and then continuing to St. Masme where it bivouacked for the night. On 31 August a Reconnaissance Patrol captured one officer prisoner. Battalion was given mission to provide antitank protection to north flank of CT 10 and moved to vicinity of Rouvrois.

CONRAD B. STURGES
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry
Commanding



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