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HEADQUARTERS
TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (SP)
U.S. ARMY

OP 19 etc

From: 0001 hrs 1 July 1944
To : 2400 hrs 31 July 1944.

13 Dec 45 HSD

Date _____ **SUBJECT** *Initials* Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (THRU: Channels).

1. Foreword: As per FO # 5, Hq., 79th Inf Div, dated 1 July 1944, the 813th T.D. Bn (SP) was under Bn control with Co "A" in support of 315th Inf Regt; Co "B" in support of 314th Inf Regt initially.

1
July/44 79th Inf Div, as 1 July/44 is shown on overlay No. V.

2. The Record of Events:
One section from each platoon of Rcn Co established Listening Posts in BESNEVILLE. There was no enemy action in this area except for periodic enemy counter-artillery.

Lt. DeL oretto with a section from the 3rd platoon of Co "A" and three men from the 2nd platoon left their position at 1200 hrs to fire mortar shells on enemy MG nests between PORT BAIL and ST LO-D-OURVILLE. They were pinned down by the cross fire of MGs and by snipers, and returned fire with rifles and one 30 cal. MG. Two men from the rear attempted to knock out the MG nests with mortar fire but were unsuccessful. At 1845 hrs, the 315th Inf, which Co "A" was supporting, fired a company of mortar on the enemy positions including Smoke shells providing protection and a screen for the men to escape. All escaped except Lt DeLoreto and one EM (Pfc Marinaro) who got away under cover of darkness at 2400 hrs. As a result of this engagement, two EM were wounded by MG fire, one man in both legs, the other man in one leg.

Co "B" reported no change in the situation. Co "C" was reported as having left the marshalling area in England and on its way to POE Southampton.

2
July/44 LA-GUEE to take position of readiness at ST LO-D-OURVILLE, to support the 315th Inf Regt at H-hour. The 2nd platoon left at 1730 hrs for position near the 3rd platoon - about 1000 yds W of ST L O-D-OURVILLE. The 1st platoon remained at LA GUEE to furnish artillery fire against any strong points. All these movements were completed by 1830 hrs.

Co "B"s situation and position remained unchanged.
Co "C" sailed aboard LST 494 & LST 351 at 2400 hrs and beached at 1400 hrs, disembarking about 2355 hrs, and proceeded to de-waterproofing area.

Rcn C o maintained Listening Posts in BESNEVILLE with the remainder of the Company in bivouac one mile N of the town. At 2300 hrs, the 1st and 2nd platoons moved into positions of readiness just SW of BESNEVILLE (See FO # 5).

At 1630 hrs, the Bn CO, Major Jeffries, ordered the Bn Exec to prepare to move CP to 104904.

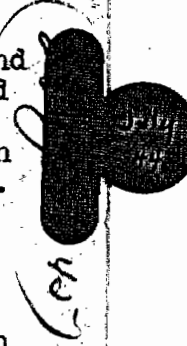
3
July/44 Co closed in new area 104904 at 1730 hrs. Rcn Co closed in approximately same location.

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd):

Co "C" arrived at the dewaterproofing area and departed at 0200 hrs by motor convoy, traveling 28 miles to bivouac area, arriving at 1800 hrs. At 0600 hrs, 3rd platoon of Co "B" contacted the enemy and three EM and one Officer were wounded, two by MG fire, the officer and the other EM by shrapnel. As a result of this encounter and injury, the officer and one EM were lost to the Bn. The other two have since returned to the unit.

The Bn S-3, Capt Meeting, and party arrived at CP and reported at 1900 hrs. Lt Hale Co "C" CO reported at same time, and Co "C" officially rejoined the Bn.

3-4
July/44 The location of Co "A" was $\frac{1}{2}$ miles N of RUGUEVILLE, coord 081928. The 3rd platoon of Co "A" moved into firing position at ST LO-D-OURVILLE, at 0530 hrs, firing at enemy strong points and MG nests in support of the 315th Inf Regt. At 0540 hrs, the Company established its CP near CHATEAU DUPREY with the 2nd Bn, 315th Inf CP. The 3rd platoon of Co "A" remained in the area to guard against counterattack until 1730 hrs then joined the Company CP under heavy mortar and sniper fire; suffered no casualties. The 2nd platoon moved into position near CHATEAU DUPREY at 0800 hrs coming under enemy artillery fire. One EM was wounded by a sniper at 1200 hrs. At 1400 hrs, the 2nd platoon was assigned the mission of reconnoitering the roads towards DENNEVILLE, acting as tanks and without infantry support. At 1500 hrs, and slightly beyond PONT AUX OUVES, the 2nd platoon destroyed a house with a number of German soldiers, estimated as twenty (20), and then withdrew to PONT AUX OEUPS. At 1700 hrs, the 4th section of the 2nd platoon brought in one wounded German soldier. At 1800 hrs, two more German PWs were brought in by this platoon. The 1st platoon captured one German at 1700 hrs while moving into position about 3000 yds S of CHATEAU DUPREY and shelled the enemy-held town of DENNEVILLE. The Company then withdrew to the woods 1000 yds S of CHATEAU DUPREY and bivouaced for the night. Map Ref: France 1/25000, Sheet 31/18 NW.

4
July/44 At 0800 hrs, 1st section of 3rd platoon of Co "A" took up a defensive position $\frac{1}{4}$ mile N of CHATEAU DUPREY. At about 1000 hrs, this position was attacked by unidentified planes which dropped two bombs, one 500 lb and one 1000 lb, 500 yds S of the section. No casualties resulted. At 1400 hrs, the Co CO and platoon leader made reconnaissance for the purpose of placing direct fire on the enemy OP in MONTGARDEN. The platoon took position at 1600 hrs and fired at 3000 yds range. Results not observed. Co "A" then moved to new position 1 mile SE of LES FOSSES at 1830 hrs, coord: 1185. For disposition of Bn elements, see Overlay # 3.

The 3rd platoon of Co "A" was assigned a mission of destroying a tower thought to be used as an enemy OP in the town of BOLLEVILLE. The mission was accomplished at 1730 hrs. The Co moved from coord 081928, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N of RUGUEVILLE, to new area 1 mile SE of LES FOSSES, arriving there at 1830 hrs. At 2110 hrs, platoon officer, sergeant, and 1st section of 1st platoon left for coord 139234 to fire at two enemy tanks which were shelling our infantry. They contacted the commander of the infantry who said that the tanks had just withdrawn. All concerned were under heavy enemy arty fire. There were no casualties and they returned to Co "A" area at 2230 hrs.

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd):

There was no change in the position of Co "B" which was in the general vicinity 1 mile E of BOSQUEVILLE, coord 118930. Fifteen (15) FW 190s were observed at 2030 hrs, but they did not participate in any action. Enemy artillery was very active during the night. The Co continued on its mission to LA HAYE DU PUIITS.

Co "C" was still in bivouac area vicinity $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S of BAUDREVILLE, coord 110850. Rcn Co in vicinity of CARBOSVILLE, coord 110939, reconnaissance platoons continuing to reconnoiter toward LA HAYE DU PUIITS.

5
July/44 Co "B" moved from coord 118930 to 130860. There was no change in the situation and positions re Cos "A" & "C". The 1st platoon of Co "B" took firing positions on the hill that had been taken the previous day and at 2045 hrs, fired 60 rds of HE on LA HAYE DU PUIITS. The 3rd platoon left the new bivouac area (coord 1386, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W of LA DETROUSSE) at 2 030 hrs to fire on enemy MG positions in support of elements of the 314th Inf Regt.

Rcn Co was very active, working with the destroyer Cos and the 79th Div Inf until 1800 hrs. All the rcn platoons returned to the bivouac area near DENNEVILLE RR station at 2000 hrs and then the Co moved 1 mile N of DENNEVILLE and bivouaced for the night. Four (4) EM were wounded in action by enemy artillery fire near LA CHAPELLE.

6
July/44 The disposition of the Bn was as follows: Bn CP located at 1486, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS, Map Ref: 1/25000, Sheet 31/18 SW; Co "C" CP moved to coord 1486, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS; Co "B" CP moved to new bivouac area from coord 1386 to 1586 (at 0830 hrs). The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons maintained same positions as previous day in anticipation of enemy counterattack. See Map of France 1/25000, Sheet 31/18 SW. Rcn Co CP located at 1188, Map Ref: France 1/25000, Sheet 31/13 SW. The Co left the bivouac area N of DENNEVILLE and moved to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S of DENNEVILLE. All the Rcn platoons were on reconn and Listening Post duty with the forward elements of the infantry. Rcn 2nd platoon destroyed two (2) enemy MGs with 37mm shell fire. As a result of this engagement with the enemy, Rcn Co had one officer and four (4) EM as casualties.

7
July/44 The disposition of the Bn was as follows: Bn CP at 1486, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS (Rr Ech at 0892 RUGUEVILLE); Co "A" at 1485, 1 mile E of LA CHAPELLE; Co "B" at 1586, 1 mile N of BOLLEVILLE; Co "C" at same loc as Bn CP; Rcn Co at 1186, 4 miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS.

At 1115 hrs, Co "A" moved to indirect fire positions near 1485, 1 mile E of LA CHAPELLE; the Co was not called upon to fire. The 2nd platoon received sporadic enemy shelling but had no casualties.

Rcn Co platoons were working with the three destroyer Cos of the Bn, keeping liaison w/Div, manning OPs during daylight hours, and Listening Posts at night. Co CP was moved to a point 1 mile S of DENNEVILLE. Members of the 2nd platoon were pinned down on the OP they had established by heavy artillery fire. There were no casualties, but fighting all along the front was heavy.

8-11

Bn disposition same as that of previous date. See further along in this report for account of the death in action of 2nd Lt. Joe D. Henderson of Co "C", reported as missing in action on 9 July/44.

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd):

- 9
July/44 The disposition of the Bn is as follows: Co "B" CP moved from bivouac area coord 1586, 1 mile N of BOLLEVILLE to BOLLEVILLE at 1540 hrs; the rest of the Bn dispositions were the same as those of the previous day. One EM was evacuated to the hospital; diagnosis - nervous exhaustion.
- 10
July/44 The disposition of the Bn is as follows: Bn CP - 1486, 2½ miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS; Rcn Co - 1188, 4 miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS; Co "A" - 1287, 1 mile SW of BOLLEVILLE; Co "B" - 1583, 1 mile SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS; Co "C" - 1486, 1 mile N of MONTGARD EN; Bn Rr Ech - 0892, RUGUEVILLE.
Per VOCO, 813th TD Bn, 1st Lt Christensen asgd to & jd Co "C" from Hq Co, and assumed principal duty of platoon ldr, vice 2nd Lt Joe D. Henderson, believed KIA but still listed as MIA.
- 7-11
July/44 Co "C" CP moved to 1783, ½ mile SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS; Map Ref: France 1/25000, Sheet 31/18 SW. (NOTE: LA HAYE DU PUIITS cleared of enemy on 8 July/44 and completely in American control).
Co "B" 1st and 2nd platoons moved from their areas to cover positions and were alerted to repel any attack by the enemy. Enemy planes were observed at 2315 hrs and bombs were dropped, none of them falling in platoons' immediate vicinity. The rest of the Co remained in same location as 10 July/44.
- 7
July/44 Co "A" 2nd & 3rd platoons fired artillery mission from 0001 hrs to 0030 hrs. Target: gun positions vicinity LESSAY; fired artillery mission from 0200 hrs to 0200 hrs; indirect fire S of LESSAY. Ammunition expended 300 rds HE (3"). The 1st platoon joined the Co at 1300 hrs. The 2nd & 3rd platoons fired artillery mission from 2200 hrs to 2400 hrs. Ammunition expended 60 rds HE.
- 8
July/44 At 0115 hrs, Co "A" CO received orders to send one platoon to BOLLEVILLE, contact Infantry runner, and report to 3rd Bn, 314th Inf Regt. The Co CO and platoon ldr of the 3rd platoon went forward to Inf CP 1¼ miles SE of BOLLEVILLE, and received instructions to echelon the M-10 destroyers forward and stand by for mission of assault fire on town of LA HAYE DU PUIITS. The platoon stood by until 2020 hrs, at which time the Infantry commander announced that the town had fallen without resistance. The platoon returned to the Co. The 1st platoon remained in position keeping contact with the 106 Cav on the right flank. The 2nd & 3rd platoons were strafed by enemy planes at 2200 hrs; no casualties resulted.
- 9
July/44 Co "A" was then 1 mile SW of BOLLEVILLE. At 0930 hrs, Co CO and Bn CO went forward to MONTGARDEN and made reconn of gun positions of Co "C". The Co CO was ordered to relieve the crews of M-10s of Co "C" with crews from Co "A" as the situation was such as to make it adviseable to remove the destroyers. The mission defined was to support the 2nd & 3rd Bns of the 315th Inf. Lt Gibbs and crews of Co "A"'s 2nd platoon, and Lt DeLoreto and crews of Co "A"'s 3rd platoon began relieving Co "C" at 1430 hrs and completed same at 1800 hrs under very heavy mortar and artillery fire. At 1900 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon (Co "C"'s destroyer w /Co "A"'s crews) pulled out to a position S of MONTGARDEN to counter an enemy tank attack. Sgt Ward's M-10 was disabled when an enemy shell hit the turret, but he was able to pull out, exchange the M-10 for another, and return to his position. No tanks were sighted. Co "A" CP moved to a position 1 mile

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SW of BOLLEVILLE at 1500 hrs. Because the Co was considerably understrength owing to casualties, practically all of the men in the security sections were used to man the destroyers. Communication was poor. The Co established its own liaison with the 2nd & 3rd Bns of the 315th Inf Regt. Both platoons were under enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire from 1430 hrs on. The 1st platoon and Co CP were also under enemy artillery fire.

10
July/44

The 2nd & 3rd platoons of Co "A" went over to the 3rd Bn of the 315th Inf at 1000 hrs. At about 12 00 hrs, 1st Lt DeLoreto was killed by enemy mortar fire (leader of the 3rd platoon). Platoon Sgt Brunjes took command of the platoon. At about 1500 hrs, the 3rd platoon was called upon to support Co K of the 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt. Said platoon went to a position 3/4 mile SE of MONTGARDEN and fired direct fire at enemy positions expending about 120 rds of HE. At this time one (1) EM was wounded in the head by enemy high-burst artillery. Observation was very poor with no definite targets upon which to fire. At 2000 hrs, 2nd & 3rd platoons moved back; 3rd platoon to 1/4 mile E of MONTGARDEN; 2nd platoon to 1/2 mile N of MONTGARDEN. Co Exec, 1st Lt Ritzie, took command of the 3rd platoon at 2000 hrs.

The following is an account of how Lt DeLoreto was killed and of the gallantry in action of Cpl Piver in this encounter. The 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt, requested liaison with Major Donaldson, 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt, at the Bn Forward OP, and Cpl Piver was detailed for the work. Piver was instructed to stay with the OP and to run any messages to his platoon leader. About 1200 hrs, K Company had a very heavy counterattack from heavy mortar and artillery fire which disrupted communications. Major Donaldson ordered Piver to go back to his platoon and bring up his platoon leader to deliver fire to relieve the situation. Piver made his way across the field which was under heavy enemy mortar fire to get his platoon leader, Lt DeLoreto. Piver made it to Lt DeLoreto and then returned again across the field to the Inf OP. Lt DeLoreto, in coming up, was killed by the mortar fire, and Piver went across the field about 600 yds to the platoon. On this trip back, he was covered up by earth from one of the enemy shell explosions. Some infantrymen helped him out of the hole and he went back to the platoon for the fourth time and brought the platoon sergeant, Brunjes, back across the field. The platoon sergeant then brought up his four destroyers and began shelling the enemy at ranges from 500 to 1000 yds. It was feared that some of the platoon fire might be too close to our troops, so Piver was instructed to go to each of the four destroyers to tell them to increase the range. Although each of the destroyers was drawing heavy mortar and machine gun fire, Piver crawled on the rear of each of the four M-10s and instructed their crews to increase their range. The enemy shelling was stopped and our troops were able to advance about 400 yds. Major Donaldson of the 315th Inf Regt recommended that Cpl Piver be awarded the Silver Star.

11
July/44

The 3rd platoon of Co "A", at 1200 hrs, was called upon to resist enemy tanks reported moving NE along the main road S of LA TRAVERSERIE. One section (2 M-10s) of the 3rd platoon moved out with three friendly tanks in support to counter; about 1 mile S of MONTGARDEN, the M-10s hit soft, swampy ground and became stuck; the two M-10s thus lost out in the attack. Two of the friendly tanks in the attack were knocked out; one by bazooka,

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and one by an 88mm gun. The TD section was pulled out and returned to the platoon area, and the platoon leader reported to the Bn CP. Another attack was planned and Lt. Gibbs and S/Sgt Brunjes with Liaison Officer Sperry made foot recon for fire positions on area where enemy tanks were last reported. The tanks were not there and the 2nd & 3rd platoons' M-10s, which had been echeloned to the chateau $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S of MONTGARDEN for the attack, were again sent back to their own positions of cover for the night. The 1st platoon relieved the 2nd platoon; S/Sgt Brunjes placed in command relieving Lt Ritzie. Four men from Co Hq were sent to the 3rd platoon as replacements in M-10 crews.

Rcn Co moved to LA HAYE DU PUIITS and encamped for the night at coord 1784. Enemy aircraft, believed to be about 15, bombed LA HAYE DU PUIITS near the Co bivouac area. Harassing arty fire fell in the area all night. There were no casualties. Map Ref: Sheet 31/18 SW; 1/25000. Bn C P was located at coord 1683.

12
July/44 The disposition of the Bn CP and elements was the same with the exception of Co "B"'s CP which moved to a new area at 2110 hrs to coord 1882. 1st Lt Johnson, commanding Rcn Co, maintained air-ground liaison for TDs with FA Cub plane. All Rcn platoons were engaged in road recon, and at night returned to the bivouac area at coord 1784. There were no casualties.

13
July/44 The Bn CP was still located at coord 1683, $\frac{7}{10}$ mile SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS. The Bn Rr Echelon moved from coord 0982 (Rugueville) to a new location at coord 1585, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS, closing at 1230 hrs; distance traveled by motor convoy - 7 miles. Co "A"'s 2nd & 3rd platoons and CP moved at 1600 hrs to positions 1 mile W of LA HAYE DU PUIITS and began firing arty missions. The 1st platoon remained with the 315th Inf at Hill # 84. Co "C"'s 1st platoon moved into a position of readiness at 1000 hrs in support of Co "B".

14
July/44 Official listing of the death in action of 2nd Lt Joe D. Henderson, of Co "C", previously reported as MIA on 8 July/44. Co "A"'s 2nd & 3rd platoons took up direct fire positions 3 miles N of LESSAY and fired 280 rds HE at targets in and around the town. No counterbattery fire was received at that time, but later in the day, the area from which they fired was heavily shelled by enemy arty. There were three (3) casualties (EM); two wounded by shrapnel, and one hospitalized for nervous exhaustion.

15
July/44 Bn CP located at coord 1683, $\frac{7}{10}$ mile SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS; Bn Rr Echelon at coord 1585, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles NW of same town; Co "A" 1 mile W of same town; Co "B" at coord 1882, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S of same; Co "C" at coord 1581, 2 miles SW of same; 3rd platoon of Co "C" in firing position at coord 1779.

Co "A"'s 2nd & 3rd platoons fired arty missions from 2000-2400 hrs; targets:- W of LAPARILLON and N of MARGUERIN; ammo expended 60 rds HE. The 1st platoon moved into firing position $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles W of LA HAYE DU PUIITS at 2100 hrs. Co "B"'s 2nd & 3rd platoons returned to area near Co CP for maintenance and check on vehicles. The 1st platoon remained in position of previous day. Co "C"'s CP moved to coord 1581, 2 miles SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS. The 3rd platoon moved also, taking up firing position at coord 1779. Rcn Co was still engaged in road reconnaissance.

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16
July/44

Bn CP moved to coord 1882, 1 mile S of LA HAYE DU PUIITS, arriving at 1635 hrs. Rr Echelon remained at coord 1585, 1 1/4 mi. NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS. There was no change in the location of Co "B". Enemy arty shelled bivouac area sporadically on 16th & 17th July. Co "C"'s CP moved to coord 1686, 2 miles SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS. Rcn Co location remained same.

The following is an account of the activities of Co "A" plus one platoon of Rcn Co while attached to the 83rd Inf Div from 16 July - 29 July/44. Co "A" moved from their position 1 mile W of LA HAYE DU PUIITS to coord 3477 1 mile SW of CARENTON. On 16th July/44, the 2nd & 3rd pls of Co "A" fired an arty mission from 0800 hrs to 1000 hrs. At 1430 hrs, Co "A" was detached from 813th TD Bn (SP) and atchd to the 83rd Inf Div. The 1st platoon of Rcn Co was attached to Co "A", also at 1430 hrs. At 1645 hrs, the Co began moving to a position 1/4 mile E of SAINTENY, arriving there at 1900 hrs, contacting and reporting to 83rd Inf Div. The 1st platoon of Co "A" was attached to support 329th Inf Regt; 2nd platoon in support of 331st Inf Regt; 3rd platoon in support of Division Arty. 1st Lt Sperry was sent as liaison officer from Hq Co, 813th TD Bn, to act as liaison between Co "A" and 83rd Inf Div.

17
July/44

There was no material change in the location of the Bn elements between 17-25 July/44. 2nd Lt Dyer asgd & jd from 48th Repl Bn ao 17 July per VCOG, VIII Corps, and assumed principal duty of platoon leader in Co "C". 1st Lt Christensen relieved of assignment to Co "C" and trfd to Hq Co per VCO, 813th TD Bn ao 17 July/44.

19
July/44

2nd Lt Richards asgd and jd Co "A" 813th TD Bn ao 16 July/44 per VCOG, 79th Inf Div and assumed principal duty of platoon leader.

21
July/44

1st Lt Stevenson (S-4) and 1st Lt Hale, Co "C" CO, promoted to Captain ao 15 July/44 per SO 197, Hq ETOUSA.

20
July/44

At 0700 hrs, Co "A"'s 1st platoon moved from the vic of SAINTENY to 1 mile S of CHERURED BOIS GRIMOT to support the 3rd Bn of the 329th Inf Regt in an attack which did not take place. The 2nd platoon maintained its position in front lines 1 mile S of SAINTENY with 20 EM from the 331st Inf Regt attached as outpost guards. The 3rd platoon maintained its position 1/2 mile SW of LES CHAMPS DELOSQUE, receiving occasional shelling from enemy arty. NOTE: At 1700 hrs, when Co "A" CO received notice of 83rd Inf Div order attaching 1st, 2nd, & 3rd platoons to 329th, 330th, and 331st Inf Regts, he procured a copy of Operations Memo # 37, Hq, 1st US Army, 9 July/44, bringing same to the attention of the 83rd Div Arty in protest against abnormal employment of Tank Destroyers.

One of the two officers, 2nd Lt Richards, requisitioned as replacements, reported to the Bn CP and Lt Richards was assigned to and joined Co "A" ao 16 July/44.

24
July/44

The Bn CO, Col Jeffries, visited Co "A" CP which was still located about 1/2 mile E of SAINTENY. The 1st platoon moved two M-10s to positions 1 mile NE of SAINTENY and registered in on enemy position, and at 2000 hrs shelled enemy movements in front of Sgt Beck's forward M-10. Lt Richards observed the fire.

25
July/44

The situation was unchanged, but at 1930 hrs, an enemy mortar shell landed on the rear of Sgt Beck's forward M-10. Casualties were one officer and five (5) EM. Two of the wounded EM

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returned to duty after treatment. The M-10 was disabled and left there and recovered in the morning.

26
July/44 Co "A"'s 2nd platoon under Lt Gibbs moved into a position of readiness at H-hour, 0540, at coord 3374 awaiting orders from the CO at the 1st Bn, 331st Inf Regt to move into firing positions to cover Inf platoons. The platoon remained in the position of readiness under heavy enemy fire until 1230 hrs without receiving orders to move. Then at 1240 hrs, several conflicting messages were received by Lt Gibbs who reported to the CO, 2nd Bn, 331 Inf Regt, to obtain a classification. There he received orders to move into a field at coord 3474 and await orders from a Capt Waters. Lt Gibbs moved two M-10s into the designated field at 1300 hrs and waited for further instructions. At 1600 hrs the platoon was drawing very heavy artillery fire, and Capt Waters had not arrived. At 1600 hrs, because the presence of the M-10s was also resulting in drawing heavy enemy shell fire on our adjacent Inf troops, Lt Gibbs moved his platoon back to its previous position. At 1800 hrs, the CO of the 2nd Bn, 331st Inf Regt, called Lt Gibbs for discussion on an attack to be launched at 2230 hrs. It was decided not to use the M-10s that night, and Lt Gibbs was ordered to report at 0800 hrs the following day. Nothing much was accomplished; very difficult and close terrain and constant enemy artillery fire harassed our Co.

The 3rd platoon of Co "A", under Lt Goetsch, moved forward to positions of readiness at LA BARRE at 1030 hrs. At 2200 hrs, Cpl Morrow with M-10 in support of 2nd Bn, 330th Inf Regt, fired on the house from point-blank range at 75 yds. After the shelling, the Inf advanced about 400 yds. The platoon was under fairly heavy fire the entire day; Ammo expended: 12 rds HE, 1 rd APC, 3 rds SMK.

The 1st platoon made route recon for front line positions, echeloned destroyers forward at 0900 hrs, retrieved disabled M-10 from forward position 1 mile E of RUIDS. Sgt Beck replaced Sgt Culler in command and he and Sgt Gilbert made continuous ground recon the rest of the day. The platoon expended no ammo but was under heavy mortar and arty fire throughout the day.

So as not to break the continuity of Co "A" activities, while attached to the 83rd Inf Div, their doings have been carried through from the time of their detachment from the 813th TD Bn and attachment to the 83rd Inf Div at 1430 hrs, 16 July/44 until it was returned back to the Bn on 29 July/44.

23
July/44 Co "B" (coord 1882, 1½ miles S of LA HAYE DU PUIITS) 2nd platoon moved forward about 1 mile into indirect fire position at 2000 hrs. In the course of the night, they fired 80 rds HE; later moved back to old area.

24
July/44 Co "B"'s 1st & 3rd platoons remained in same area. 2nd platoon moved up to indirect fire position again at 2000 hrs and fired 80 rds HE; returning to old area at 2400 hrs. Rcn Co was still at coord 1784, 7/10 miles SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS. Enemy arty shells fell in and around bivouac area all night, but there were no casualties.

25 For the third consecutive night, 2nd platoon of Co "B" moved up to indirect fire position at 2000 hrs and fired 80 rds HE; returning to old area at 2400 hrs. The 3rd platoon fired 35 rds SMK and 8 rds HE for registration at 1500 hrs. The 1st platoon remained in its same area.

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- 26 July/44 Co "B"'s 1st & 2nd platoons moved from their bivouac area to ready positions in vicinity of LESSAY. 3rd platoon fired indirect fire from its positions from 0530 hrs to 1200 hrs, operating through FDC on targets. One platoon from Co "C" also operated through Co "B"'s FDC. The 3rd platoon of Co "B" expended 220 rds HE. The Co CP moved from its location at coord 1882 (See Co "B" 27 July/44).
- 27 July/44 Co "B"'s FDC was turned over to Co "C" and the personnel moved to the Co CP area at 0130 hrs. All three firing platoons moved across the AY RIVER; the 1st & 2nd platoons to coord 2174, the 3rd platoon to coord 2375. The maintenance section joined the Co CP at 1000 hrs, location coord 2178, $\frac{1}{2}$ miles S of VESLY.
Rcn Co CP moved from $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SE of LA HAYE DU PUIITS to new bivouac area 1 mile E of BRIEQUEVILLE (2177). The Co reconn platoons were working S along the AY RIVER front. Elements of the 3rd platoon crossed to the S side of the AY RIVER. Enemy arty shelled bivouac area and vicinity. There were no casualties.
- 28 July/44 Co "C" CP moved from coord 1686, 2 miles SW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS to coord 1763, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles W of MONTSURVENT. Co "B", after crossing AY RIVER, moved into the area of the 1st & 3rd platoons. The 1st platoon moved forward 1 mile. The 2nd platoon moved forward about 2 miles, and as reported previously, the 3rd platoon moved across the river near the 2nd platoon. Later the Co moved 4 miles S of LESSAY into an assembly area; stayed there for the night. Bn CP moved from coord 1882, 1 mile S of LA HAYE DU PUIITS to coord 1863.
- 29 July/44 Co "B" moved about 3 miles SW of MONTSURVENT (1862), spending the rest of the day in cleaning and maintenance of equipment and materiel. Co "A", plus the one attached Rcn platoon, was released from the 83rd Inf Div, reverting to Bn control. The 1st platoon of Rcn Co returned to the Co for duty.
Sometime between 1000-1400 hrs, one EM from the Medical Detachment was killed as a result of enemy action in vicinity of LESSAY.
The Bn Rr Echelon moved from coord 1585, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles NW of LA HAYE DU PUIITS TO coord 1863, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles W of MONTSURVENT, traveling 10 miles, arriving there at 1700 hrs.
- 30 July/44 Rcn Co CP moved S to new bivouac area in the town of HERENGUEVILLE. All the platoons were assigned on road reconn S and E. They encountered no enemy action and had no casualties. There were no other changes in location of Bn elements.
- 31 July/44 Bn CP moved to coord 2229, 1 mile NE of ST URSIN; Rr Echelon to coord 2230, 1 mile N of ST URSIN; Co "A" to coord 2330, 1 mile SE of same; Co "B" to 1 mile NE of same; Co "C" to coord 2230, 1 mile NE of same. Rcn Co left old bivouac area at 0800 hrs moving S along 4 parrallel routes on road reconn, encountering no enemy opposition. The 2nd platoon took 21 prisoners; the 3rd platoon took 35 prisoners. All prisoners were turned over to PW camps. Co then went into bivouac at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S of ST QUENTIN at coord 3112.

Action Against Enemy, . reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd).

At the close of the period, the Bn CP and all of its elements were bivouaced in the vicinity of ST URSIN, coord 2229.

4 AGO
JAN 20 1945
Received

oh - 5
12:00 pm

Herbert Meeting, Jr.
HERBERT MEETING, JR.,
Captain, 813th TD Bn.,
S-3.



Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Act. Reports (Cont'd).

Herbert Meeting, Jr.
HERBERT MEETING, JR.,
Capt., 813th TD Bn.,
S-3

4 AGO
JAN 20 1945

S-4

SECRET

COMPANY "A",
813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. NO. 403, U. S. ARMY

L-73
10/5-344

13th, August 1944.

L-73

SUBJECT : Record of Events of this Organization while attached to the 83rd Infantry Division for the period 16 July 44 to 29 July 44.

TO : Commanding General, 83rd Infantry Division, A.P.O. No. 83, U.S. Army.

16th, July 44: At 1430 hours Company detached from 813th T. D. Bn., attached to 83rd Infantry Division. 1st Platoon Reconnaissance Company attached to Company "A", at 1430 hours. At 1645 hours company began moving to position 1/4 mile East of Sainteny, Normandy, France, arrived 1900 hours. Contacted Division. 1st Platoon attached to support 329th Infantry Regiment. 2nd Platoon attached to support 331st Infantry Regiment. 3rd Platoon attached to support Division Artillery.

17th, July 44: Company Commander, Platoon Leaders, & Sergeants made reconnaissance. At 1645 hours 1st Platoon position was shelled by the enemy at which time Sergeant Popp & Technician 5th grade Mec were wounded.

18th, July 44: At 0230 hours Company received orders for 3rd Platoon to report at 0730 hours to Les Champs Des Losque. Made Reconnaissance into Kemilly Sur Lozon. No change on other platoons. Occasional shelling during day. At 0300 hours one German soldier captured in the vicinity of Company C.P.

20th, July 44: 1st Platoon moved at 0700 hours from vicinity of Sainteny to 1 mile South of Chorured Bois Crimot to support 3rd Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment in an attack which did not come off. 2nd Platoon maintained position in front lines 1 mile south of Sainteny with 20 enlisted men from 331st Infantry Regiment attached as outposts. Occasional shelling by enemy.

23rd, July 44: At 1700 hours received notice of 83rd Division order attaching 1st, 2nd & 3rd Platoons to 329th, 330th, & 331st Infantry Regiments.

24th, July 44: Battalion CO visited Company. 1st Platoon moved two M-10's to position 1 mile N.E. of Sainteny & registered in on position where enemy tanks were reported. At about 2000 hours shelled enemy movements in front of Sergeant Becks' forward M-10. Lieutenant Richards observed effective fire.

25th, July 44: Situation unchanged. At 1930 hours enemy mortar shell landed on rear of Sergeant Becks' forward M-10 wounding Lieutenant Richards, Corporal Welborn, Private Boswell, & Private Bromfield. Corporal Chopp & Technician 5th grade Dadeppo were slightly wounded but returned to duty after treatment. M-10 disabled, left in forward position over night.

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RECORD OF EVENTS OF COMPANY "A", 813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, WHILE ATTACHED TO THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD 16 July 44 to 29 July 44 CONT'D:

26th, July 44: M-10 2nd Platoon under Lieutenant Gibbs moved into ready position at H-hour 0540 at Coord. (3374) & awaiting orders from 1st Battalion 331st Infantry CO to move into fire position & cover Infantry Platoon, remained in ready position under heavy enemy fire until 1230 hours without receiving orders to move, then at 1240 hours several conflicting messages were received by Lieutenant Gibbs who reported to 2nd Battalion 331st CO to get clarification. He then received orders to move into a field at Coord. (3474) & await orders from a Captain Waters. Lieutenant Gibbs moved two M-10's to the field at 1300 hours & awaited. At 1600 hours the platoon was drawing very heavy artillery fire. Captain Waters did not arrive during this time. At 1600 hours Lieutenant Gibbs moved his platoon back to previous position because of his drawing heavy fire on adjacent Infantry troops. At 1800 hours CO of 2nd Battalion 331st Infantry called Lieutenant Gibbs to a meeting to discuss attack at 2230 hours. It was decided not to use the M-10's this night & Lieutenant Gibbs was ordered to report to the Battalion CO at 0800 hours. Nothing accomplished because of close terrain. Morale low because of continuous enemy artillery fire. Ammunition expended: None. 3rd platoon under Lieutenant Goetsch moved forward to position of readiness at La Barre at 1030 hours. At 2200 hours Corporal Morrow with M-10 in support of 2nd Battalion 330th Infantry received orders to fire on farm house S.W. of La Barre. House supposed to contain three German machine guns. Corporal Morrow fired on the house from point blank range of 75 yards. Infantry advanced approximately 400 yards after shelling. Platoon under fire all day. Ammunition expended: 12 rounds HE, 1 round APC, 2 rounds of smoke. 1st platoon made route reconnaissance for front line positions. Echeloned destroyers forward at 0900 hours retrieved disabled destroyer from forward position 1 mile East of Raids. Staff Sergeant Culler relieved from command of platoon. Sergeant Beck placed in command. Sergeant Beck & Sergeant Gilbert made continuous ground reconnaissance all day. Platoon under heavy sporadic mortar & artillery fire throughout period. Ammunition expended: None.

27th, July 44: 1st Platoon in position covering the advance of 329th Infantry toward El Douit. About 1300 hours moved from gun positions to bivouac area 3 miles north of El Douit. Spent the night. 2nd platoon at approximately 0800 hours pulled into a ready position at Coord. (3575) under occasional enemy artillery fire. Stayed there until 1900 hours. At 1900 hours platoon leader went on a reconnaissance for firing positions to cover the 2nd Battalion 331st Infantry on an advance. At 2000 hours when they encountered no enemy resistance 2nd platoon was sent around by another route. At 2300 hours three M-10's got stuck at Coord. (3577) so platoon stayed there for the night. 3rd platoon moved from Remilly Sur Lozen. One M-10 to 1st battalion 330th Infantry. One M-10 to 2nd battalion 330th Infantry in vicinity of respective battalion CP's. At 1000 hours Corporal Campbell moved into firing position and fired on cross roads at La Colentinene. Returned to 2nd battalion CP at approximately 1400 hours, moved to new firing position and fired on houses for targets. After firing approximately 8 rounds of HE smoke obscured targets. He then fired 2 rounds of smoke to cover Infantry advance. Pulled out of firing position and returned to rallying point at battalion CP. Returned to platoon area at 2100 hours.

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5-344

RECORD OF EVENTS OF COMPANY "A", 813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, WHILE ATTACHED TO THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD 16 July 44 to 29 July 44 CONT'D:

28th, July 44: 1st platoon about 1000 hours crossed the Taute river, went into position of readiness near the 329th Infantry, 2nd battalion CP, 1 mile north of Feugers. 2nd platoon at 0630 hours proceeded to Coord. (3775) to cross Taute river. When platoon arrived the bridge was still out so they tried to by-pass. No. 1 M-10 got stuck holding up traffic for two hours. At 1400 hours they tried to go by another route but could not get up to the Infantry because of blown-out bridges. Pulled back about 1900 hours to fuel up and go by the original proposed route. Fuel didn't arrive until very late so platoon went as far as possible and bivouaced for the night. Corporal Morrow received orders to move up to fire position. Route reconnaissance made on foot. Engineers blasted three hedge rows so that the M-10 could get through to position. On arrival at position Infantry reconnaissance went forward to cross-roads and found cross-roads and nearby buildings clear of enemy. The regiment moved forward at a great rate of speed. Corporal Morrow with his M-10 moved to Le Mesnel. Corporal Campbell returned to rear as motors on his M-10 were overheating. Security and reconnaissance men on one M-10 as replacements. Stayed at Le Mesnel for the night.

29th, July 44: At 1200 hours company CP moved from position 1/2 mile east of Sainteny to position 1 mile south of Feugers. Arrived at 1530 hours. At 1545 hours company received information that we were detached from the 83rd Division and to return to battalion. Notified platoons to assemble at CP. At 1800 hours company left position 1 mile south of Feugers arrived at battalion area at St. Ursin 2100 hours.

Lost one M-10 through a direct hit by an enemy AP shell.

Jakey Lions
JAKE G. LIONS
Captain, 813th T.D. Battalion,
Commanding.

314.8

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U. S. Army, 23 August 1944.

TO: Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 308, U. S. Army.

Forwarded.



For the Commanding General:

N. P. Cowden
N. P. COWDEN
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

- 3 -

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AUTH: CG VIII CORPS

DATE: 29 AUG 1944

INITIALS: *CCB*

AG 319.1 (AG-O)
(23 Aug 44)

Wrapper Ind.

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS, APO 308, U. S. Army, 29 August 1944.

TO: Commanding General, First United States Army, APO 308, U. S. Army.

Noted.

For the Commanding General:

RECEIVED
1st ARMY AGO

9 SEP 1944

DISPATCHED

30 AUG 44

C. G. B. Warden

C. G. B. WARDEN,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

1 Incl:

Record of events Co A 813th
TD Bn, for period 16 July to
29 July 44 with 1st Ind.

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