

HEADQUARTERS
813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. # 403 U. S. ARMY

From: 0001 Hrs 1 October 1944
To : 2400 hrs 31 October 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

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

Foreword: c Up to 1 October 1944, the 813th TD Bn had knocked out, destroyed, or captured the following:

- 17 Mk IV Tanks
- 7 Mk V Tanks
- 1 Mk VI Tank
- 4 SP Guns
- 22 Group and Combat vehicles
- 2 AT Guns
- 8 Millboxes
- 2 MG Nests
- 585 PWs taken (w/an est. 400-500 enemy foot troops killed or wounded)

At the beginning of this report, the Bn was in XV Corps Reserve, minus Cos "A" & "C" which were attached to the 106th Cavalry Group. Co "B" was under the control of XV Corps Arty and fired several indirect fire missions for XV Corps. As of 5 October/44, Co "B" exchanged positions with Co "A"; Co "B" becoming attached to the 106th Cav Gp and Co "A" attached to the 961st FA Bn to fire XV Corps Arty missions. Effective 13 October, at 0900 hrs, the Bn, minus Co "C", was attached to the 79th Inf Div. Co "C" remained attached to the 106th Cav Gp in support of the 121st Cav Sqdn. On 13-14 October, the 1st & 3rd platoons of Co "C" were relieved from attachment to the 106th Cav Gp and attached to the 79th Inf Div in direct support of the 315th Inf Regt. As of 1600 hrs, 23 October, the remaining platoon of Co "C", the 2nd platoon, was relieved from attachment to the 106th Cav Gp and attached to the 79th Inf Div, joining the other two platoons in support of the 315th Inf Regt. As of 1200 hrs, 24 October, this Bn was relieved from attachment to the 79th Inf Div and attached to the 44th Inf Div Arty per VCG XV Corps. On 30-31 October, the Bn was relieved from attachment to the 44th Inf Div Arty, reverting to the control of the 5th TD Gp.

1 Oct/44

On this date, the Bn CP was located in EINVILLE, coord 076068, on the N bank of the MARNE-RHINE CANAL. The Bn Rr Ech was located in LUNEVILLE, coord 068996. Co "A" & Co "C" were attached to the 106th Cav Gp, and Co "B" was firing indirect fire missions for XV Corps Arty from positions in LUNEVILLE.

Rcn Co remained on the N side of the MARNE-RHINE CANAL in EINVILLE, rotating plabons on OP duty. An OP was established in BATHELMONT-LES-BAUZEMONT. A listening post was established at VALHEY. At this time, Rcn Co was reinforced by

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a spare M-10.

Co "A"'s CP was located in EINVILLE, coord 076068. At 0800 hrs, its 1st platoon relieved the 2nd platoon at coord 114064, the 2nd platoon moving to the indirect fire position previously held by the 1st platoon at coord 070060. After registration, the 2nd platoon fired 145 rds HE during the day.

Co "B" fired 63 missions of concentration fire between the hours of 0600 and 1800, expending 624 rds of HE. An artillery observer from the 182nd FA reported in person to Co "B"'s FDC, stating that he had observed the fire which had been laid on a CR and a road about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long in the PARROY area. He reported that he observed a considerable number of the enemy killed and a large amount of enemy equipment knocked out. He stated that he saw three truck loads of enemy dead evacuated, and that it would take an estimated five more trucks to evacuate the remainder of the enemy dead. The CO of the 182nd FA Bn stated that Co "B" was the only unit to have fired into that particular area. Later in the evening, Co "B" was ordered to fire 12 additional missions, expending 30 rds in doing so. The Co was unable to fire further missions during the night because of lack of ammunition. While the 2nd platoon was silencing an enemy battery with the aid of the Arty Observation Plane, pictures of the action were taken by the Signal Corps.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon, at 2100 hrs, fired 56 rds HE (indirect) on harrassing fire mission. Co CP remained at SERRES, coord 065109.

2 Oct/44

At 1400 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon moved from indirect fire position to an assembly area SE of CERON, coord 111049. At 1500 hrs, the 3rd platoon moved to BOWVILLER, coord 083045. At 1800 hrs, the 1st platoon moved 1000 yds E of CRION, coord 120052.

Co "B" did no firing up until 1500 hrs as there was no ammunition at the dump. At 1630 hrs, after the ammunition had been delivered to the gun positions, the Co registered on a new check point, using 14 rds SMK. At 1700 hrs, the 2nd platoon, with the Cub Plane observing, fired at an enemy tank, results not determined. Between 1900 hrs, 2 Oct and 0600 hrs, 3 Oct, firing one platoon at a time, the Co executed 132 missions, expending 778 rds HE. The target was road network in the PARROY FOREST area.

At approximately 1400 hrs, Co "C" moved its CP from SERRES to EINVILLE, coord 080070. The 2nd platoon, at 0930 hrs, moved to the vicinity of BAUZEMONT, taking up direct firing position covering the E and S. The 1st platoon moved to an indirect firing position $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of EINVILLE, and in the afternoon, fired 20 rds HE and one rd SMK at enemy targets.

Ren Co, less one platoon, was in bivouac on the N side of the MARNE-RHINE CANAL in the vicinity of EINVILLE. The 1st platoon, reinforced by one spare M-10, maintained a listening post in BATHELMONT.

3 Oct/44

There was no change in the position of Ren Co, with the exception that the 2nd platoon relieved the 1st platoon at 1600 hrs in BATHELMONT. The spare M-10 reinforced the 2nd platoon.

At 0830 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd & 3rd platoon moved into in-

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direct fire positions at coord 089049, and at 1400 hrs, the two platoons fired 154 rds HE on arty missions. At 1015 hrs, Co "A" moved its CP to BONVILLER, coord 088045, about 1000 yds from the guns positions of the 2nd & 3rd platoons. There was no change in the position of the 1st platoon.

During the afternoon, Co "B" again registered, using 30 rds SMK and 12 rds HE. During the night, between the hours of 2300, 2 Oct, and 0300 hrs, 3 Oct, the Co fired 70 missions of concentration fire, total rds HE expended 400.

At 1830 hrs, Co "C"'s 1st platoon fired 55 rds HE on enemy positions and movements in the PARROY FOREST; exact amount of damage could not be determined because of darkness. There was no change in the positions of the Co CP, 2nd, and 3rd platoons.

4 Oct/44

Co "A"'s 2nd & 3rd platoons expended 428 rds HE and 3 rds SMK on arty missions during the day and night. The majority of targets were in the vicinity of PARROY and 2000 yds S of PARROY.

During the day, Co "B" executed 30 missions, firing 154 rds HE. During the night, 126 missions of concentration fire were accomplished between the hours of 2100, 4 Oct and 0600 5 Oct, expending 993 rds HE, making a total of 1087 rds HE and 156 missions.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon fired 93 rds HE and 3 rds SMK on targets of opportunity throughout the day. The 3rd platoon went into indirect fire position 3 miles E of EINVILLE, and the 2nd platoon was in an assembly area in BAUZEMONT. Co CP remained in EINVILLE.

Rcn Co's 2nd platoon, while on OP duty 2 miles NE of BATHELMONT, was heavily shelled by enemy arty during the day. Despite the heavy shelling, the platoon observed and directed arty fire for Cos "C" & "A". In the evening, all elements of the Co returned to the Co bivouac in EINVILLE.

The Bn CO, Col. Jeffries, visited the 42nd Cav (Rcn Co); purpose to coordinate with them on road and route reconnaissance.

5 Oct/44

Co "A"'s platoons were relieved at BONVILLER by Co "B". At 0800 hrs, Co "A"'s CP moved to CROISMARE and contacted the 961st FA Bn, establishing an FDC with them at coord 1407. At 1000 hrs, the platoons moved into positions at coord 1322. At 1300 hrs, they began firing harrasing missions in vicinity of coord 1322 at targets at coord 1803 and 2020, expending 180 rds HE.

Co "B" moved to BONVILLER relieving Co "A" and setting up an FDC there. The 2nd & 3rd platoons took up indirect fire positions 500 yds N of the town. The 1st platoon of Co "B" took up a position at coord 1508 with the 106th Cav. Rcn Co set up an OP and observed fire for Co "B", communication by radio. At 1300 hrs, the 1st platoon moved even farther forward with the Cav. During the night, 50 missions of concentration fire were executed.

Co "C", at 2030 hrs, ordered its first platoon to begin a series of harrasing fire missions on the N edge of the PARROY FOREST. The platoon fired until 2400 hrs, expending 200 rds HE. The 2nd & 3rd platoons remained the same. The 2nd platoon was under arty fire from the enemy during the night but there were no casualties.

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The Bn was informed that the 44th Inf Div would relieve the 79th Inf Div on the high ground E of the PARROY FOREST sometime during the latter part of the month.

6 Oct/44

Co "A" and platoons stayed in the same position as the previous day. During the early morning, 36 rds HE were fired on harrasing mission. At 0940 hrs, for purposes of base point registration, 13 rds HE and 4 rds SMK were expended. At 1410 hrs, the Co fired 27 rds HE on enemy infantry at coord 1796, and from 1600 hrs to 1725 hrs, 34 rds HE at an enemy gun position at coord 2392. At approximately the same time, 64 rds HE, 3 rds SMK were fired at an enemy OP in the vicinity of coord 1999-9875. During the evening, the Co fired 210 rds HE interdiction fire on coord 1805 to coord 1911.

Co "B", at 1300 hrs, reregistered using 11 rds HE and two rds SMK. The Co fired 3 missions, all observed. At 1530 hrs, the OP called for fire on enemy foot troops advancing towards them. 3 Co volleys were fired and the OP stated that the mission was accomplished. The 2nd mission consisted of laying a 40-round concentration of HE on enemy arty positions. This mission was also accomplished successfully. The third mission was likewise successfully executed with the Co firing 39 rds HE on enemy mortar positions, silencing same. During the night and early morning hours, 23 additional missions were fired. The total ammunition expended for the day was 390 rds HE and 2 rds SMK.

Co "C" fired 250 rds HE on harrasing fire missions.

Ren Co's 1st platoon performed OP duty E of BAUZEMONT on Hill 273, and observed the Co's fire during the daylight hours.

7 Oct/44

The Bn S-2 went on Cub Plane reconnaissance (XV Corps Obs) over EINVILLE, BURES, MONCOURT, HENAMENIL, and a portion of the PARROY FOREST. The plane received S/A fire in the vicinity W of XURES but there was no damage. What appeared to be burned-up Mk V tanks were later found to have been tanks which the enemy camouflaged using a black and brownish-red paint to simulate destroyed or burned-out tanks.

Co "A", from midnight to 0600 hrs, fired 261 rds HE of harrasing fire on the road from(coord 18140 to coord 00515) to 19540-01470. At 0940 hrs, 19 rds HE were used for adjustment on base point, coord 18190050. At 1840 hrs, the Co received more harrasing fire missions and fired 54 rds HE each hour, on the following targets; the road at coord 1853, an enemy OP at coord 1794-9970, two mortars at coord 18499996, a bridge at 1824-0033, and various other enemy positions at coord 18400049.

Co "B" fired 15 missions during the day. One of these missions was observed, 19 rds HE being expended to silence an enemy mortar. Co "B"'s 1st platoon was replaced by the 2nd platoon in the FORET DE PARROY with the 106th Cav. The 1st platoon then went into indirect firing positions. During the night, 25 missions of concentration fire were accomplished, and 200 rds HE were expended. The Co fired a total of 352 rds HE during the day.

Co "C"'s 2nd platoon took up a defensive position in the N edge of the PARROY FOREST. The 1st platoon, from indirect fire positions, fired 200 rds HE on enemy positions and supply lines. There was no change in the positions of the 1st & 3rd platoons.

Ren Co continued to operate in the same manner as on the previous day.

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8 Oct/44

On this day, all three destroyer Cos fired several hundred rounds of HE at various enemy targets.

From 2400 hrs to 0600 hrs, Co "A" expended 252 rds HE on missions which had been assigned the Co on the previous night. At 1000 hrs, the Co began adjusting on a base point at coord 18190-00500 expending 15 rds HE and completing adjustment at 1045 hrs. At 1210 hrs, 80 rds HE were fired on enemy MGs in the woods vic coord 171008 To 172009. At 1930 hrs, the Co began harrassing fire missions and expended 254 rds HE up until 2400 hrs at target areas vic of coord 185008, 195 015, 179997, 184000, 182005, 185999, 182003 (PARROY area).

Co "B" fired 29 missions, two of which were on enemy infantry, expending 527 rds HE. The 2nd platoon remained in the FORET DE PARROY with the 106th Cav. During the night, between 2130 hrs and 0100 hrs the following day, one platoon fired 25 missions of concentration fire expending 100 rds HE.

Co "C" fired 269 rds HE on enemy targets in the forest of PARROY.

Rcn Co's bivouac area was shelled during the night but the Co remained in position. The 3rd platoon performed CP duty near BAUZEMONT.

9 Oct/44

During this day also, the Cos fired several hundred rds HE on enemy targets.

Co "A", from 2400 hrs until 0445 hrs, fired 324 rds HE on targets vic LA-NEUVEVILLE, coord 195015. At 0640 hrs, the Co began harassing fire in support of the attack of the 79th Div, target areas being in general vic coord 175017, 186026, 192036, 203037, 216041. These missions were completed at 1317 hrs after 497 rds HE had been fired. At 1900 hrs, additional harrassing fire missions on the area, coord 176007, 182003, 195014 were successfully accomplished. Between 1900 and 2400 hrs, the Co expended 250 rds HE, making a total of 1071 rds HE fired by the Co during the day.

Three of the 61 missions which Co "B" fired during the day were on enemy infantry (2) and mortar positions. 331 rds HE were fired during these 61 missions. Co "B"s 2nd platoon moved further forward with the 106th Cav to coord 1607 in the forest of PARROY. The platoon officer was seriously injured by shell fragments and evacuated. The platoon received heavy shell fire during the day. During the night, between 2100 hrs and 0530 hrs, the following day, one platoon fired 25 missions, expending 100 rds HE.

Co "C" fired 334 rds HE on various targets in the forest of PARROY. Its third platoon moved to a defensive position in the forest at coord 152075.

Rcn Co's CP remained in EINVILLE. The 1st platoon performed CP duty on Hill 273 N of HENAMENIL for Rn destroyer Cos as forward observers. The 1st platoon sent a five-man patrol E from HENAMENIL along the S bank of the MARNE-RHINE CANAL. They were able to reach the dam at Lake PARROY before encountering heavy enemy MG and S/A fire which forced the patrol to withdraw. The patrol then returned to the platoon area on Hill 273. The 3rd platoon manned a security post on the NW side of the FORET DE PARROY near HENAMENIL.

10 Oct/44

Co "A", from 2400 hrs to 0545 hrs, fired 288 rds HE on assigned missions. At 1000 hrs, the Co adjusted on base point

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at coord 182005, expending 18 rds HE in the adjustment. During the next two hrs, the Co fired harrassing missions expending 197 rds HE in approximately the same general target area as on the previous day

Co "B" fired a total of 28 missions during the day, three of which were on enemy infantry with the total HE expended being 98 rds.

Co "C"'s only action during the day took place when the 1st platoon, in indirect fire position, fired 24 rds HE on enemy targets in the FORET DE PARROY.

Rcn Co had its platoons patrolling the S side of the canal from HENAMENIL east and north towards PARROY. Outposts and listening posts were also maintained and roads from HENAMENIL southwest to 150060 were swept for mines.

11 Oct/44

There was no change in the position or situation of Co "A".

Co "B" moved NE 5 miles to HENAMENIL, establishing an FDC there. The 1st & 3rd platoons went into indirect fire positions 300 yds N of the town. As the 106th Cav was relieved for two days, Co "B"'s 2nd platoon pulled back and rejoined the Co. No missions were fired during the night.

Co "C" moved its CP from EINVILLE to HENAMENIL at coord 134088. The 1st platoon moved from its indirect firing position in the vic of EINVILLE to PARROY, taking up direct firing positions on the high ground NE of the town. The 2nd platoon moved from the forest of PARROY to HENAMENIL. Heavy enemy artillery fire fell in the area of the 1st platoon during the night.

Rcn Co's 3rd platoon was deployed in a defensive position covering the high ground on the NW side of the FORET DE PARROY along the edge of the woods in old World War trenches 3000 yds W of PARROY. One section of the 2nd platoon remained on outpost duty on a hill E of PARROY. All of the positions occupied by Rcn Co composed part of a screen between the 4th Armrd Div and the 79th Inf Div.

The Bn CO went on ground reconnaissance near the front lines during the afternoon, working with Rcn Co.

The Bn CP received enemy artillery fire during the night and after examining the shell fragments, were able to ascertain that the shells were from 105mm guns.

12 Oct/44

As of 1630 hrs, Co "A" was detached from the 961st FA Bn, reverting to Bn control.

Co "B" was attached to the 106th Cav Gp in support of the 121st Cav Sqdn. The 1st & 3rd platoons registered using 2 rds SMK and 1 rd HE. Four missions of observed fire on enemy infantry were successfully accomplished. 54 rds HE were fired on these missions. During the night, 25 missions of concentration fire were accomplished, ammunition expended 200 rds HE.

Co "C" remained attached to the 106th Cav Gp.

There was no change in the location or situation of Rcn Co.

13 Oct/44

The Bn CP moved from EINVILLE to CROISMARE.

Co "A" moved from CROISMARE to MARAINVILLER, coord 164 990 with the 1st platoon moving to coord 216006, the 2nd platoon to coord 210010, the 3rd platoon to coord 512993.

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Co "B", as of this date, is attached to the 79th Inf Div. The Co moved SE 10 miles to MARAINVILLER, establishing a CP there. The 1st & 3rd platoons took up defensive positions around EMBERMENIL (23-04) with the 2nd platoon remaining in reserve in the same town.

Co "C"'s 2nd platoon, from positions vic HENAMENIL, fired 17 rds HE at targets vic coord 188104. The 1st platoon received enemy artillery fire around their positions.

Rcn Co's 1st platoon registered in 2nd platoon of Co "C" when Co "C" fired on enemy troops dug in on the high ground N of MOUACOURT. One section of the 1st platoon went on a mission with the 79th Rcn Troop in an attempt to establish an OP. Heavy enemy resistance frustrated their efforts.

14 Oct/44

Co "A", in support of the 314th Inf Regt, had its 1st platoon at coord 216013, 2nd platoon at coord 236022, 3rd platoon at 255016. Throughout the day, the 2nd platoon received very heavy enemy artillery fire and one man was evacuated to the hospital because of nervousness and fatigue. The 3rd platoon also received intense enemy shell fire during the forenoon and then intermittently throughout the day. The previous night, one M-10 ran over an enemy land mine and two NCOs were injured. The mine blew off the tracks but no one was killed.

Co "B"'s CP moved 4 miles to LA NEUEVILLE. The 1st platoon took up a direct fire position at coord 2305. The 3rd platoon remained in the same position and the 1st platoon, shortly after moving into position, began to receive very heavy enemy artillery fire. During the day, the 2nd platoon moved into the vic of the Co CP. The Co was in direct support of the 313th Inf Regt.

Co "C" moved its CP from HENAMENIL to THIEBAUMENIL at coord 017099. The Co, at that time, was working in support of the 121st Cav Sqn (attd to the 106th Cav Gp). By order of XV Corps, the Co was ordered to rejoin the 79th Inf Div, minus one platoon which was to be left with the Cavalry.

Rcn Co moved from EINVILLE, at 1000 hrs, less one platoon, traveling in convoy, to LUNEVILLE, then E to a new bivouac area 1 mile N of MARAINVILLER at coord 165006.

During the day, the Bn was informed that four (4) men had been awarded the Bronze Star (CO, 79th Inf Div).

15 Oct/44

At about 0200 hrs, 15 Oct, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon heard a tracked vehicle in their vicinity. Infantry of the 79th Div fired on the tank or SP gun with MGs. The bullets ricocheting off the sides of the tracked vehicle caused a series of sparks which enabled Sgt Lamoreaux, crew chief of an M-10 of the 2nd platoon, to knock out the vehicle with a single round of AP shell. This incident was reported to XII Corps and appeared in "Battle Experiences" edited by XII Corps. The vehicle was later identified as a 75mm SP Gun, coord 23650190. One Sgt was injured by fragments from an enemy mortar.

Co "B" did not change position and the proposed attack by the infantry with whom Co "B" was working did not take place. The terrain was very muddy and it was necessary for supplies to be taken up to the front by horse and wagon. Intense mortar fire fell in the platoon areas throughout the day.

Co "C"'s platoons also received heavy enemy mortar fire and one officer was wounded, but after treatment returned to duty.

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16 Oct/44

All Rcn Co platoons were employed as liaison with the Inf Regts, on OP duty for the Regimental Bns, mine-sweeping, road & Route reconnaissance.

At 2000 hrs, 15 Oct, Co "A"'s 1st platoon succeeded in extricating its M-10s which had been bogged down in the muddy terrain at coord 231016, moving into position at coord 235021. During the early hours of 16 Oct, heavy artillery fire and mortar fire fell on the 1st & 2nd platoon positions. Two EM were wounded and evacuated. At 0400 hrs, the enemy counter-attacked with infantry and tanks and succeeded in retaking some ground held by our own infantry. The enemy tanks were in defilade; because of the darkness, it was extremely difficult for our destroyer crews to see them. However, 7 rds HE were fired at enemy foot troops at a range of about 100-200 yds. The crews of the M-10s also opened up with MGs and Carbines on enemy infantry no farther away than 25 yds from their M-10s. Three men were wounded during this encounter. NOTE: It has previously been mentioned that it was unusually dark, but had the friendly infantry, at the beginning of the attack, fired at the tanks with their small arms and MGs, the resulting sparks would have enabled our TD gunners to shoot at these enemy tanks even though they were in partial defilade. See incident described above re Sgt Lamoreaux. At 0730 hrs, our infantry attacked regaining the lost ground. At 1400 hrs, one of the M-10s of the 2nd platoon received a direct hit from enemy artillery fire, but fortunately, the shell hit on the bogie lessening the damage considerably..

There was no change in the positions of Co "B" and the only change in Co "C" took place when one section of Co "C"'s 3rd platoon relieved a gun crew of Co "A" for 24 hrs.

17 Oct/44

Rcn Co continued to work the same as on the previous day. Two men were wounded as a result of enemy shell fire in Co "A"'s sector. An attack by enemy infantry forced our friendly infantry to withdraw approximately 400 yds. One of Co "A"'s M-10s, which was in position with the forward elements, could not pull back because of the mud, and the platoon leader placed an incendiary grenade in the motors before withdrawing his crew. A counterattack by our own infantry regained the ground which had been lost. The M-10 was found practically unharmed, and was later put back on the line.

Co "B"'s 2nd platoon moved up 1500 yds from its former position and went into direct fire positions. There was no change in the positions of the rest of the platoons.

There was no change in the positions of Co "C". Three M-10 crews relieved three crews of Co "A" on the line.

Rcn Co moved to CHANTEHEUX. The Rcn platoons continued on previous missions.

During this period, as a result of casualties, battle fatigue, nervous exhaustion, sickness, and various other causes, it became necessary to make up crews from En Hq and Co Hq to man M-10s of the firing Cos. This was done to permit over-worked crews to obtain some small degree of rest and relaxation. What replacements came in had to be schooled and oriented before putting them on the front line. The En CP set up a driver school for new M-10 drivers in CROISMARE and the En S-3 and one Liaison officer gave a brief instruction course on the 3" gun for the new gunners.

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18 Oct/44 During the early hours of the morning, the enemy attempted another counterattack with one thrust being made in the vic of Co "A"'s 3rd platoon which was in position at coord 250014. The attack was made with tanks and infantry but was broken up by our artillery. The enemy continued harrassing fire throughout the day.

There was no change in the location of Co "B"'s elements with the exception of the 2nd platoon which moved back N of LA NEUVEVILLE into indirect fire positions in support of the 79th Div Arty. After firing 5 rds of SMK, to register, the platoon then fired 270 rds HE at LEINTREY and various other targets at coord 2529-0108, 2569-0155, and 2612-0288.

Co "C"'s 3rd platoon fired 26 rds HE at a church steeple in LOMJEVIN which was being used as an OP by the enemy.

All of Rcn Co's platoons worked with the Inf Regts of the 79th Div.

19 Oct/44 On this day there was little change in the location or situation. Co "B"'s 2nd platoon fired an additional 452 rds HE at LEINTREY in the same general vicinity as on the previous day.

Co "C" moved its 1st & 3rd platoons to an assembly area vic MANONVILLER.

20 Oct/44 At 1200 hrs, Co "A"'s 1st platoon went into position at coord 238024 relieving the crews of Co "C". The 2nd platoon of Co "C" took up indirect firing position in the FORET DE PARROY working in conjunction with the 121st Cav Sqdn. There was a great deal of shifting of crews within each Co and platoon with the M-10s, in most cases, remaining in the same firing position.

Co "B"'s 2nd platoon, from its same indirect firing position of the previous two days fired 193 rds HE at LEINTREY and adjacent areas, and then moved to the vicinity of the 3rd platoon in preparation for a proposed attack by the 79th Inf Div. The positions of both the 2nd & 3rd platoons were rather heavily shelled by the enemy artillery shortly after the 2nd platoon had joined the 3rd.

Each Rcn Co platoon worked with the three Inf Regts of the Div; the 1st platoon w/ the 313th, the 2nd platoon w/ the 314th, the 3rd platoon w/ the 315th.

21 Oct/44 At 0635 hrs, the 79th Inf Div attacked on a 7000-8000 yd front (for sectors and boundaries, see FO # 21, 79th Inf Div).

At 1100 hrs, one section of the 3rd platoon of Co "A" moved to a firing position at coord 253037. At 1200 hrs, the 2nd section of the same platoon moved to coord 251028. The other two platoons remained in the same position receiving heavy enemy artillery fire throughout the day. During the afternoon, both sections of the 3rd platoon also received enemy shelling.

Co "B"'s CP remained in the same position as that of the previous day. In preparation for the attack of the 79th Inf Div, the Co Cndr established a forward CP for the day's operations. Co "B"'s 1st platoon moved along with the infantry on the attack, firing 25 rds HE, 6 rds APC, knocking out one (1) Mk V tank, one (1) AF Gun, 1 MG. The platoon also took three (3) prisoners. The 2nd platoon moved with the tank Bn attached to the Div, giving them cover. The platoon fired 20 rds HE and 25 rds of APC and also knocked out one (1) Mk V tank and one (1) AF Gun. One of this platoon's M-10s was knocked out by an enemy tank. One member of the crew was killed and four men seriously

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wounded. The M-10 burned up. Two PWs were taken by this platoon. Toward the end of the action, one crew chief was shot by a sniper wounding the crew chief rather seriously. Co "B"'s 3rd platoon had earlier in the morning moved into position and covered the 2nd platoon during the advance, firing 45 rds HE and 30 rds of APC.

At 0630 hrs, in the vicinity of EMBERMENIL, Co "C"'s 1st & 3rd platoons, in support of the 315th Inf Regt (and elements of the 749th Tank Bn), began an attack on the high ground $\frac{1}{2}$ miles E of EMBERMENIL. The 3rd platoon knocked out an enemy AT Gun at coord 023005. The attack continued on until about 1600 hrs. A German tank (Mk IV or V) knocked out one of our M-10s, but seconds after, one of our destroyers knocked out the same enemy tank. The M-10 which was hit caught on fire and one officer and one sergeant, seeing that the crew had not gotten out of the M-10, rushed over and were able to help two men to safety but were unable to extricate the remaining three of the crew. At this time, because of the very muddy terrain, the other two destroyers of the platoon were unable to advance or withdraw. To prevent the enemy's seizing it, the crew burned their destroyer. The other M-10 was left in position as there was but little opportunity to destroy it. The 3rd Platoon then moved SE of EMBERMENIL taking up a defensive position in the sector of the 315th Inf Regt. The 2nd platoon moved to an indirect fire position in the FORET DE PARROY. Investigation of the tank which the enemy had knocked out, and in which three men were trapped, revealed that all three had been killed and the M-10 itself completely burned.

Rcn Co's platoons worked in the same manner as on the previous day with the Inf Regts.

The Bn S-2, with radio-operator-driver, went to contact the 313th Inf Regt and our own Co "E" in the vicinity of EMBERMENIL. While traveling from EMBERMENIL North along a road just recently swept of mines, they were taken under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire at approx coord 230057. Leaving the vehicle on the side of the road, they spent about fifteen minutes in a nearby ditch. At this point, a combat patrol from K Co in the 315th Inf came out of the woods heading West. As the patrol crossed the road at the above coordinates into the woods on the other side, one of the infantrymen either stepped or tripped on a mine, or there is even a possibility that a mortar shell had fallen among them and set off a sympathetic explosion wounding at least twenty of the infantrymen, four seriously. The Bn S-2 and driver piled the four wounded men into the jeep, and under heavy enemy fire, delivered the men to the 313th Aid Sta. in EMBERMENIL, and had help ~~sent~~ sent back for the remainder of the men.

22 Oct/44

Co "A" established a forward CP in EMBERMENIL at coord 255039. The enemy placed heavy artillery fire on the town throughout the day. On the previous day, the 1st platoon had knocked out one (1) 88mm Gun at coord 253024.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon moved to coord 234059. Their position was heavily shelled by enemy artillery and one crew chief was wounded. The 2nd platoon moved from EMBERMENIL to coord 255043; and during the latter part of the day, fired 33 rds HE and 45 rds APC.

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

Co "C"'s 2nd platoon fired on enemy targets NE of the FORET DE PARROY. The 3rd platoon took up a defensive position at coord 024050, NE of EMBERMENIL. The Co knocked out one (1) Mk V Tank but suffered the loss of one of its own M-10s which was knocked out by an enemy tank.

There was no change re Rcn Co.

23 Oct/44

During the night, Co "A"'s 1st & 3rd platoons fired 33 rds harrassing fire at coord E of EMBERMENIL. 5 rds APC and 1 rd HE were fired at the tank which had been knocked out earlier in the day. Enemy artillery laid heavy fire on the 3rd platoon positions during the early morning and one man was wounded.

At 0630 hrs, Co "B"'s 1st platoon had to withdraw from their position to avoid being surrounded by enemy infantry. Two enemy infantrymen were killed by carbine fire as they approached one M-10. Later in the day, two M-10s of the 1st platoon moved up onto a hill overlooking XOUSSE. It fired 3 rds APC at a tank but because of the fog, exact damage could not be ascertained. The 2nd platoon remained in the same position most of the day. Enemy tanks moved up in front of their position and our M-10s moved up to where they could see and fire on the tanks. This happened two or three times and one (1) Mk IV, one (1) Mk VI, were destroyed, and two more were hit. Some of the enemy crews, in attempting to escape, were killed by our infantry. One of the tanks, during the night, was retrieved by the enemy. This was one of the tanks which had been hit but not totally disabled. Co "B"'s 3rd platoon knocked out a Mk V tank firing 3 rds APC at it. All platoons were fired on by enemy tanks and artillery and one man was wounded.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon went into position SE of EMBERMENIL near the 3rd platoon. The Co knocked out one (1) Mk IV tank during the day. The 2nd platoon continued to fire on targets NE of the FORET DE PARROY.

Rcn Co's platoons worked on liaison missions with the front line elements of the 44th and 79th Inf Divs. One M-8 of the 1st platoon received a direct hit from an artillery shell. The 57mm gun and the MG were badly damaged as a result of the hit.

In 7 days, the Bn lost 34 men, killed and wounded, and 9 of these men were sergeants (platoon leaders and section chiefs).

24 Oct 44

A Co's platoons and the company CP remained in the same positions and the enemy continued to shell all the positions around EMBERMENIL firing an exceedingly heavy concentration from 1730 hrs to 1800 hrs. At this time movement of enemy vehicles was heard to the front of the platoon positions, and at 1810 hrs the officer leading the second platoon directed artillery fire on the enemy movement. One enemy infantry man who infiltrated through the lines was shot by an M-10 crew member.

B Co's platoons did not change positions despite heavy enemy artillery concentration fire. Three of an M-10 crew were evacuated to the hospital as a result of combat fatigue, and six others were sent to the rear echelon to rest for a couple of days. The men had been under severe concentration fire but after resting for a few days returned to duty. Men from the Battalion CP section were sent up to the front to relieve other men who were badly in need of rest.

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

Co C's 3rd platoon was in a defensive position NE of the town of EMBREMENTIL at Coord 024005 when the enemy launched a counter attack at the 1st Bn of the 315th Inf Regt. at approximately 0600 hrs. The 3rd platoon gave close support to our infantry elements during the attack and knocked out two M4V tanks and scored three hits on another tank partially disabling it. At 1700 hrs the crews of the 2nd platoon relieved the crews of the 3rd platoon.

Rcn Co's CP remained at CHATELAIN, Coord 111004. All the Rcn platoons continued to work with the forward elements of the 79th and 44th Inf. Divisions. The pioneer platoon of the company was also employed in the role of liaison with various infantry elements. The M-10 which the company had been using to reinforce its reconnaissance missions received a direct hit from enemy artillery. Two of the crew were wounded and after treatment returned to duty. One other member was more seriously injured and was evacuated to the hospital.

25 Oct
1944

During the 25th of October, the situation except for sporadic shelling of our platoon positions by the enemy was relatively quiet.

Co A's directed artillery fire on enemy horse drawn vehicles and upon other enemy activity in the vicinity of VENO. These missions were accomplished by the 1st and 2nd platoons. At 0830 hrs, the 2nd platoon received a mission to fire on a church steeple in VENO which as usual, was thought to be used as an CP by the enemy. The mission was accomplished two hours later with considerable damage being done to the church 20 rds of HE and 10 rds of APC being expended. During the day the company moved its CP to LA NEUVEVILLE.

Co B's platoons received the usual heavy shelling during the day and one M-10 received a direct hit from enemy artillery. The crew was badly shaken up and one member was wounded and evacuated. Two members of a different M-10 crew were also evacuated as a result of combat fatigue. Three other men previously evacuated because of fatigue and exhaustion, returned to duty.

Co C had no change in position or in the situation other than slight displacements due to heavy enemy artillery fire.

Rcn Co's 2nd platoon returned to the company area for a rest. The other platoons continued on the same work as on the previous day.

26 Oct
1944

Co A's elements remained in the same positions despite rather heavy shelling from the enemy. A small enemy counter attack in the sector of the 3rd platoon was quickly repulsed. Later the 3rd platoon requested artillery fire be placed on enemy positions NE of LEINTREY and the same was done. As soon as our artillery began to adjust, enemy activity ceased in the LEINTREY area.

Co B's 1st platoon moved two M-10s up on top of a hill from which point they fired 25 rds of HE and 17 rds of APC at a church steeple in the town of MOUSSE. The steeple was considerably damaged by the fire from the M-10. Men from Hq and Rcn Companies were sent up to relieve some of the crews for rest etc. The platoon areas received some enemy shelling during the day but the fire was not as intense as on the previous day.

Co C's elements received heavy shelling but there was no change of position during the day.

Rcn Co continued to work in the same manner with the various infantry elements of the 44th Div.

The Battalion received twenty four replacements during this period.

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

27 Oct/44

Co "A"'s 3rd platoon directed artillery fire on an enemy CP at coord 258045. During the afternoon, the platoon received heavy artillery and mortar fire and also occasional small arms fire.

Co "B" had two men wounded by mortar fire. The crews of two M-10s were brought back to the Co CP for a 24-hour rest, being replaced by two other crews.

One M-10 of Co "C"'s 3rd platoon received a direct hit from enemy artillery fire but did not render the M-10 non-operational.

The 1st, 3rd, and Pioneer platoons of Ren Co remained on liaison duty with the 44th Inf Div. The 2nd platoon was in reserve.

Approximately 10 men were sent to the hospital during this period as a result of nervous exhaustion and battle fatigue.

28 Oct/44

At 0710 hrs, the 3rd Bn of the 71st Inf Regt moved AT guns into the position of the 3rd platoon of Co "A", and the platoon returned to the Co area. The enemy shelled all platoon positions heavily until approximately 1900 hrs, at which time the shelling ceased.

There was no change in the position of Co "B".

Co "C"'s 2nd platoon moved from CROISMARE to an assembly area in LA NEUVEVILLE. Otherwise there was no change.

Ren Co's 2nd platoon relieved the 3rd platoon on duty with the 44th Inf Div..

29 Oct/44

There was no change in the location of the Bn CP or its Co. elements on this day. Sporadic enemy artillery fire fell in platoon areas of the various companies but there were no casualties.

30 Oct/44

At 1700 hrs, Co "A" of the 776th TD Bn arrived at the CP of Co "A" of the 813th TD Bn in LA NEUVEVILLE. At that time and place, Co "A" of this Bn was relieved officially, with the platoons of the 776th TD Bn taking over the area vacated by our Co. At 2000 hrs, all three platoons of Co "A" assembled in CROISMARE for the night. The Co CP moved to MARAINVILLER at coord 164991.

Co "B" was likewise relieved by Co "B" of the 776th TD Bn. All of Co "B"'s platoons moved back to the Co area.

Co "C"'s 1st section of the 2nd platoon took up a defensive position $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SE of MANONVILLER at coord 221981. The 3rd platoon went into an assembly area at THIEBAUMENIL along with the 1st platoon and the remaining section of the 2nd platoon, after being relieved by the 776th TD Bn.

While on duty with the 44th Inf Div, the two men from the 1st platoon of Ren Co were wounded by enemy artillery fire, one very seriously.

At this time, the Bn CP was located in CROISMARE. During the day, the Bn gave up its quarters to the 776th TD Bn and moved to another section in CROISMARE. The CO of the 776th TD Bn officially acknowledged responsibility for TD defense in the 324th and 71st Inf Regt sectors (44th Div). The Bn CO of the 813th notified the 44th Div Arty, 5th TD Group, and other elements that the Bn had been relieved by the 776th TD Bn and was no longer responsible for the immediate TD defense in the area. On the following day, the Bn and all Cos were to move in accordance with XV Corps order.

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

31 Oct/44

During the day, The Bn CP moved from CROISMARE, coord 142005, to VITRIMONT, coord 043008; Co "A" to AUTHELUPT, coord 025019; Co "B" to FLAMVAL, coord 010030; Co "C" to HUDIVILLER, coord 011012. Recon Co was at CHANTEHEUX. All the Bn elements were but a few kilometers W of LUNEVILLE. Maintenance of vehicles was begun and a training program initiated. The Bn was expected to remain in the above areas for approximately 10 days. At this time, the 79th Inf Div was in a rest area also and it was believed that at the conclusion of the rest period that the Bn would be reattached to this division.

SUMMARY

During the month of October, the Bn destroyed one (1) Mk VI, four (4) Mk Vs, eight (8) Mk IVs, one (1) SP Gun, one (1) Group vehicle, 3 AT Guns, and one (1) MG, making a total of two (2) Mk VIs, eleven (11) Mk Vs, twenty-five (25) Mk IVs, five (5) SP Guns, twenty-three (23) Group Vehicles, five (5) AT Guns, eight (8) Pillboxes, three (3) MGs ~~and~~ destroyed and 588 prisoners captured to date.

4 AGO
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George McCutchen
GEORGE MC CUTCHEN,
Major, 813th T. D. Bn.,
Commanding.