

HEADQUARTERS
703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

DWS/jed

3 November 1944.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS: 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944.

(Note: All coordinates listed are found in the Nord De Guerre grid system and in the 500 Kilometer square V. All letters preceding coordinates in this narrative designate the 100 Km square within the above mentioned area).

Review of Latter Days of Previous Period:

30 September - Battalion was issued eighteen (18) Gun Motor Carriage, 90-mm, M36. These were broken down to include one per tank destroyer section. Familiarization, as much as possible, had been completed prior to the issue.

The third platoon of Company "B" was the only element of the battalion on the line. All others were receiving time for maintenance, recreation, rest and rehabilitation.

Disposition of troops of the battalion were as follows:

Bn (-"A" and "B" and 2 Ron Plts) in Div Res at (K938579) via BREINIG.

"A" Co and 1st Plt Ron Co with C Comd "A", 3rd Armd Div, via SCHUIZHEIDE (K929387).

"B" Co and 3rd Plt Ron Co with C Comd "B", 3rd Armd Div, Co CP w/Ron Plt (-3rd and 1st Plts) via BREINIGERHEIDE (K912578). 1st Plt via BREINIG (K933382). 3rd Plt via STOLBERG (K950418).

"C" Co had been relieved of their road block assignments on this date.

1 Oct 44. - "A" Co demonstrated the new M36 for C Comd "A", 3rd Armd Div. Final arrangements were made and permission received from G-3, 3rd Armd Div to test-fire the M36 on 2 Oct 44. Location of range, via WALHEIM (K903554).

2 Oct 44. - All M36's were test-fired by 1200 hours. All guns operative. It was observed that older lots of ammunition cause a large screen of smoke in front of the destroyer. This will, in addition to increasing the difficulties of observation, disclose the position of the gun. Some rounds were smokeless and very satisfactory.

Four (4) M-10's from "C" Co went into indirect firing position at (K926369) via BREINIG. Will fire interdiction and harassing missions in vicinity of ESCHESLER.

Ammunition allowance for indirect missions for the week beginning Sunday are, 700 rds 90mm HE and 900 rds 3" HE.

"C" Co fired 167 rds 3" HE on indirect missions during the period.

3 Oct 44. - Second Platoon of "B" Co relieved the 3rd Plt of "B" Co. Relief effected at 1700 hours. "B" Co demonstrated the M36 to personnel of C Comd "B", 3rd Armd Div. Co CP w/2nd Plt moved to (K923382) via DORFP. "C" Co fired 58 rds 3" HE on indirect missions. Four (4) M36's went into indirect firing position at (K923374) via BREINIG.

4 Oct 44.- "A" Co moved four (4) M36's into indirect firing position at (K907383) via KORNELIMUNSTER.

Attempts to register 90mm platoon of "B" Co were unsuccessful. Both air and ground OP's were employed.

Harassing fires were prepared by both 90mm platoons for the night, but were not fired.

Platoon of 3" guns fired 250 rds HE during the period on harassing missions.

5 Oct 44.- Fired total of 96 rds 3" HE and 83 rds 90mm HE on targets in missions during the period.

6 Oct 44.- Four (4) M36's from Co "B" went into indirect firing position at (K938386) via BRINIG.

No missions were fired during the period.

7 Oct 44.- Personnel of the battalion voted this date, if they so desired.

Air OP from Div Art, again attempted to register the 90mm platoon. The results were unsatisfactory. Ground observation improved and all platoons were registered by dark. Expenditures for the period were 120 rds 90mm HE and 36 rds 3" HE, on harassing missions.

8 Oct 44.- Expended 176 rds 90mm HE and 84 rds 3" HE on harassing missions.

9 Oct 44.- The officers and NCO's of the battalion were assembled this date, to discuss lessons learned in battle and to pass these ideas on to new men in the battalion. (See attached letter on this subject). No ammunition expended during the period.

First platoon of "B" Co received the 2nd platoon. 2nd platoon now with the Co HQ.

10 Oct 44.- no ammunition expended this date. No unusual events.

11 Oct 44.- Registration was conducted from the following OP's during the period: OP No. 1, (K930418) via BOBMAN; No. 2, (K982410) via KREWINKLE. All platoons registered by dark. Harassing fires were prepared for the night. Total of 405 rds 90mm HE and 124 rds 3" HE expended this date.

12 Oct 44.- "B" Co moved their 90mm platoon to K92503970 via BRINIG. Observed missions were fired throughout the day on targets of opportunity, including suspected gun locations, enemy battery locations and transport. Harassing fires were prepared for the night. Total ammo expended: 184 rds 90mm HE and 108 rds 3" HE.

13 Oct 44.- OP No. 1 was registered upon by enemy artillery, thus denying us the use of this excellent OP. A total of 347 rds 90mm HE and 130 rds 3" HE were fired during the period.

3rd platoon of "B" Co received the 1st platoon. 1st platoon now with the Co HQ.

14 Oct 44.- Expended during the period 114 rds 90mm HE and 51 rds 3" HE.

90mm platoons from "A" and "B" Cos received orders for indirect firing missions and returned to company control.

3rd platoon of "B" Co fired 6 rds 90mm APCHE at enemy OP, results: OP neutralized, effect on structure unknown.

14 Oct 44. - One section of 90mm guns moved into road block position at (K977400), reconnoitered by "C" Co alerted at 1330 hours to be prepared to move into the "C" Co area of action on call. The section went to sector of "C" Co on reconnaissance and returned with information concerning further reconnaissance to be initiated by "C" Co and "D" Co, of routes to positions west of BUNHAGEN. At 1800 hours "C" Co was relieved from this alert status. During the period Co "C" expended 144 rds 90mm HE and 76 rds 3" HE on harassing missions.

15 Oct 44. - Medium enemy artillery fell in the "C" Co area and in Co "D" area from period 0615 to 0645 hours. Casualties were one (1) "C" Co KIA, and (1) "C" Co LWA.

Ammo expended for the period was 192 rds 90mm HE and 188 rds 3" HE.

17 Oct 44. - Received fourteen (14) additional M36's this date. These were broken down as follows: six (6) each to "A" and "B" Co's, two (2) to "C" Co. Total destroyers in "C" Co: 32 M36 and 4 M10. Orders were received at 1200 hours to have one (1) Plt of destroyers alerted to move to the First Inf Div zone of action. The plt under command of Lt BUGGAWER, moved out at 1530 hours and assembled in sector of 1st Bn, 26th Inf Regt at 1700 hours. Location, (K888442) via BILENDORF. mission to support infantry defensive sector. 620 rds 90mm HE and 342 rds 3" HE fired during the period on harassing missions. Co "C" moved to (K922381) via BREINIGERHEIDE.

18 Oct 44. - At 1100 hours Co "A" moved one (1) plt into indirect firing position at (K907383). The Bn ration truck was hit by enemy artillery fire in vic of BREINIG at 1700 hours. The ration sergeant was wounded and evacuated. Ammo expended for the period was 582 rds 90mm HE and 543 rds 3" HE.

2nd Plt of Co "B" relieved the 3rd Plt of Co "B".
3rd Plt now with Co OP.

19 Oct 44. - Enemy counterbattery fire fell on the "A" Co plt, shortly after midnight. Casualties one (1) "A" Co KIA, one (1) "A" Co wounded. Fire was resumed with a repetition of counterbattery fire, so the mission was called off. This plt moved to new position at (K913359) via HAHN at 1350 hours. 3rd Plt of Co "C" moved to ~~(K913359)~~ (K909377) to continue indirect fire missions. One section of 90mm guns replaced 3" guns on road block, via LAUSBAON.

Ammo expended during the period: 140 rds 90mm HE.

20 Oct 44. - Fired 1,106 rds of 3" HE during the period 091800 to 200600 on harassing missions in vic of ESCHWEILER. Received the final four (4) M36's this date, thus bringing the total to the 36 authorized.

One (1) M-8 from "C" Co was destroyed by enemy shell fire during the night in vic of (K950418). No personnel casualties.

1st Plt of "C" Co relieved of attachment to 1st Bn, 26th Inf Regt at 1100 hours and returned to Company control. In addition to the 3" ammo listed above, 300 rds of 90mm HE were expended during the period.

21 Oct 44. - Fired 928 rds 90mm HE during the period on harassing missions.

22 Oct 44.- Section of "C" Co on road block vic of HAUSBACH was relieved at 1500 hours, and returned to company control. During the period expended 500 rds 90mm HE on harassing missions.

23 Oct 44.- "A" Co moved to (K931405) vic BUSBACH. Ammo expended during the period was 1,742 rds 90mm HE.

24 Oct 44.- During the period expended 425 rds 90mm HE.

25 Oct 44.- 1st Plt "B" Co relieved the 2nd Plt at 1100 hours. 2nd Plt now in vic of company CP. No ammo expended during the period.

26 Oct 44.- Expended 710 rds 90mm HE on harassing and interdiction missions vic TUCHENBIER.

27 Oct 44.- Expended 140 rds 90mm HE during the period.

28 Oct 44.- Registration by air OP was again tried at 1400 hours this date. The plane's radio was not functioning properly therefore the mission was not completed. It is believed that this method of observation for registration has excellent possibilities for use with this weapon.

3rd Plt "A" Co relieved the 1st Plt in indirect mission. 3rd Plt "A" Co occupied exact location of 1st Plt. 1st Plt returned to area of Co CP.

During the period expended 526 rds 90mm HE.

29 Oct 44.- During the period expended 548 rds 90mm HE on interdiction and harassing missions vic TUCHENBIER.

30 Oct 44.- Expended 549 rds 90mm HE during the period.

31 Oct 44.- At 1600 hours En Comdr notified Co "C" that on the 1st Nov 44 his company would relieve "B" Company. "C" Co will go to C Comd "B" of 3rd Arm Div and "B" Co will revert to En control in Div Res. 3rd Plt Co "C" will relieve 1st Plt "B" at (K950415) vic STOLBERG, remainder of company to assemble in vic of Co CP. 2nd Plt Sen Co becomes attached to "C" Co and 3rd Plt Sen Co reverts from attachment to "B" Co to control of Sen Co.

During the period expended 494 rds 90mm HE.

Changing "B" and "C" Companies was required by the tube life of the 90mm gun—900 rounds. All of "B" Company's guns had reached 500 rounds, an arbitrary figure set by the En Comdr, to require rotation of guns. "B" Co, during the period, had rotated platoons on primary mission attached to C Comd "B", and had a negligible ammo expenditure.

Miscellaneous;

1. Maintenance Activities.

- a. All vehicles given checks for serviceability.
- b. Anti-freeze added for protection to 0 degrees temperature.
- c. All drivers performed daily 1st echelon maintenance and weekly 1st echelon check.
- d. Modifications:
 - (1) M-36 - 50 cal HE mounts cut from rear of counterweight and re-welded to left front corner of turret. (32 veh completed).
Luggage racks on rear of hull (23 veh completed)
Ammunition ready racks inside on left turret (2 veh completed).
Travel rest for gun tube from rear deck to final drive housing (1 veh completed).



- (2) Other vehicles:—none.
 e. Thirty-six (36) M-36's operational, six (6) M-8's operational.

2. Medical Activities:

- a. Cases (non-battle) handled at Bn Aid Station from 29 Jun 44 to 31 Oct 44---896. of these, 26 casualties were evacuated, 6 confined to quarters, remainder for duty.
 b. Non-battle case from 1 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44---59. Four cases were evacuated, 55 cases returned to duty, of this total three (3) were exhaustion cases.
 c. Forty-seven (47) dental cases treated during the period 1 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44.
 d. No V.D. during period, 29 June 44 to 31 Oct 44.

3. Casualty Totals:

- a. Total battle casualties period 29 June 44 to 31 Oct 44:

Type	Officers	EM	Total
KIA	2	19	21
SWA	3	13	16
LWA	5	44	49
DOW	0	2	2
SIA	0	2	2
LIA	0	1	1
MIA	0	3	3
Captured	0	2	2
Sub-totals:	10	86	96

- b. Non-battle casualties, period 29 June to 31 Oct 44: Thirty-six (36).

4. Ammunition Expenditure: Month of Oct 44.

- a. 3" HE, 3,495 rds.
 b. 90mm HE, 10,269.

5. Leaves and Furloughs:

- a. 20 EM and 1 Officer to VERVIERS, BELGIUM, 24-27 Oct 44.
 b. 8 EM and 1 Officer to PARIS, FRANCE, 27-30 Oct. 44.

6. Battlefield Promotions:

- a. Officers - None.
 b. W.O. - One (1) (Bn Motor Sgt to N.O.J.G.).

For the Commanding Officer:

W. Seibert
 W. SEIBERT,
 Capt., 703rd TD Bn,
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