

S E C R E T

COMPANY "C"
632d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 72

6 December 1944

Subject: Report After Action

To : Commanding Officer, 632d Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 72

**Enclosed herewith Report After Action of this organization for the period
23 September to 30 November 1944.**

[Handwritten Signature]
JAMES C. BAKER,
Captain, F.A.,
Commanding



Incl: 5
3 Reports After Action
2 Field Orders

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REPORT AFTER ACTION

For period 23 September 1944 to 30 November 1944.

Maps:

- a. 1/250,000 Special Map (Central Philippine Leyte)
- b. 1/25,000 Photomap (Central Philippine Leyte)
- c. 1/50,000 Special Map

1. Name and Nature of Operation Including Code Names Used

a. Name of Operation

Ascon Task Force

b. Code Names Used

Dover _____ I Corps
 Danger _____ 24th Inf Div
 Dandy _____ 19th Inf Regt
 Diamond _____ 21st Inf
 Dragon _____ 34th Inf
 Ramrod _____ 32d Inf Div
 Record _____ 126th Inf
 Relay _____ 127th Inf
 Razor _____ 128th Inf
 Slugger _____ 44th Tank Bn
 Rover _____ 632d Tank Destroyer Battalion
 Red _____ 1st Battalion of all Infantry Regiments
 White _____ 2d Battalion of all Infantry Regiments
 Blue _____ 3rd Battalion of all Infantry Regiments



c. Nature of operation

To seize and hold Leyte Island and be prepared for operations on other islands.

2. Missions:

- a. To be prepared to support Dragon in securing their "A" Day objective. To execute all indirect fire missions assigned to Rover per FO #1 Rover, dated 6 October 1944, 20th October 1944.
- b. Company placed in direct support of Dandy for operations in the Leyte Valley, 21 October to 5 November 1944.
- c. Company attached to Diamond for their operation to Pinamooan South toward Ormoc along highway #2, 6 November to 15 November 1944.
- d. Company attached to Razor who took over the mission from Diamond South along highway #2 in direction of Ormoc, 15 November to 30 November 1944.

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3. Identity of Forces:

Company C 632d Tank Destroyer Battalion. Strength 5 Officers and 125 Enlisted Men.

James C. Sawyer, Capt., F.A., Commanding
 Denis J. Illige, 1st Lt., F.A., Executive Officer
 Norbert F. Peters, 1st Lt., F.A., 1st Platoon
 Virgil C. McElroy, 2nd Lt., F.A., 2nd Platoon
 Omar B. George, 2nd Lt., F.A., 3rd Platoon



4. Character of Hostile Opposition:

Enemy opposition from the beach to Pinamopoan was spasmodic, some sectors were heavily defended while in others there was no opposition. After turning South from Pinamopoan toward Ormoc opposition was exceptionally heavy with the enemy occupying excellent positions. Enemy raiding parties were active during entire campaign.

5. Summary of Lessons Learned:

Troops which we worked with knew very little about combined Infantry TD tactics. As a result of this our actions in many cases were not as effective as they could have been had there been a better understanding of this operation. By the nature of the terrain our actions consisted mainly of firing from the road. Due to the fact we had no terrain on which to deploy, there were very few lessons on tactics to be learned. The fact that the company was under fire a great deal and that the men know what it is like being under fire should prove of great value in future operations.

6. Special Data of Value:

The half-tracks proved exceptionally good vehicles for our purpose, their mobility was good and the armor gave excellent protection against snipers and light machine guns. The fire power of Half-Tracks with one 50 Cal and one 30 Cal Machine Gun proved adequate. The tracks which we have on M10s at present are deteriorating rapidly. The type of track which we have, when used with grouser, is not as good as the rubber chevron or steel tracks which were used by M4 Tanks operating with us. It is recommended that either steel or chevron be made available. A Tank recovery vehicle which is authorized by T/S should be made available to each company. In many cases this vehicle would have speeded up repairs of broken tracks by several hours.

7. Narrative Chronological Report:

- a. Maps: 1/250,000 Special Map (Central Philippine Leyte)
 1/25,000 Photomap (Central Philippine Leyte)
 1/50,000 Special Map (Leyte Island)
- b. _____ On 23 September the Company received 8 Half-Tracks and spent the day in care and cleaning of equipment.
- 24 September 1944 Company spent the day on care and cleaning and getting the M10's ready for firing.
- 25-26 September Company fired 3" guns in a 3 phase firing problem and fired 30 and 50 cal machine guns.
- 27-30 September Company prepared equipment to go for record.

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- 1 - 5 October 1944 Company still preparing to go for record. PMJ was also held each day.
- 6 October 1944 Company still making preparations to move. Company went to a Battalion formation and heard a talk by General Gill of the 32d Infantry Division.
- 7 - 9 October 1944 Company still making preparations to go for record.
- 10 October 1944 Tents were struck and area policed. The Company left at 0930I for LST Slot arriving there at 1000I. The Company was joined by personnel of Headquarters and Reconnaissance Companies for transportation to destination unknown. LST #459 docked at 1300I and at 1345I the bulk stores were loaded. At 2300I the boat ramp broke and was taken to Hollandia for repairs, personnel already on the boat left also. There were 78 Enlisted Men and 7 Officers.
- 11 October 1944 Balance of Company and attached units still at bivouac area waiting for the boat to return.
- 12 October 1944 The LST arrived at 2020I from repairs at Hollandia. The Company loaded some bulk stores and the remaining vehicles.
- 13 October 1944 Aboard LST #459. Personnel loaded on the LST at 0125I. LST left at 0145I for Hollandia arriving there at 1100I and joined rest of convoy, which left at 1400I for Leyte Island.
- 14 - 19 October 1944 Personnel aboard LST. Company learned at this time that Leyte, Philippine Islands were to be their destination. While aboard ship the personnel had schools on the characteristics of Leyte Island, possible tactics of our forces, explanation of Battalion SOI, censorship regulations, strength and disposition of the enemy.
- 20 October 1944 "D" Day, "H" Hour was at 1000I. At 0625I the first air-raid or any enemy action took place, the plane received a warm reception and that was all that came over for the rest of the day. Promptly at 0700I the navy began shelling the beach, and this lasted for three hours. At about 0800I the smaller landing crafts began to swarm in the bay, the bay was full of all kinds of boats including troop transports. At 0900I the Navy air attack started, this lasted to 1000I. LST #459 was to beach at 1115I but due to the shallow beach it grounded 30 yards from shore and it was impossible to unload because of the depth of the water. The LST pulled out into the bay where it remained until the following day. All personnel remained aboard the ship.
- 21 October 1944 At 0930I the equipment and personnel was started to be unloaded on to a LCT as the LST was unable to beach. Soon as the equipment and personnel reached the beach they went into a bivouac area, 2 miles North East of Palo. This city was also to be the objective for the Company. Per VOCO Rover, one platoon was ordered to support Dandy Blue. The original plan was for this Company to support Dragon and A Company to support Dandy, but our elements were on the beach first and they were committed with Dandy. Entire Company was then placed in direct support of Dandy.

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21 October 1944



per V000 Rover. The first platoon was assigned mission by Company CO to support Dandy Blue and platoon leader reported to CO at Dandy Blue at 1300I. The attack pushed off at 1430I with the first platoon following the attack with the support of the Company. Heavy rifle, machine gun, and A.T. fire encountered by the leading elements. One of our Destroyer Commanders observed the position of an A.T. Gun and fire was placed in this area. Results were unobserved at the time, but the next day it was found that three 75 MM Mountain Guns had been knocked out by our fire. The platoon returned to their area at 1730I. One of the Destroyers was slightly damaged but no casualties.

22 October 1944

Company was alerted to move to a new assembly area. Recon party left at 0930I to find an assembly area in the vicinity of Palo. No area was available there so an alternate area was picked near Hill 522. Company moved into this area at 1330I, after the area was cleared of snipers. The recon party left again to find an area in the vicinity of Palo. Company moved into this area in the city of Palo at 130I and was ready to support Dandy. Company dug in for the night and they were kept on the alert all night as Jap snipers had worked into the city. There were no casualties within the Company.

23 October 1944

Company still at Palo per V000 Dandy. The third platoon was assigned mission of destroying pill boxes along route #1 SE of Palo by order of Company CO. Platoon moved down road 500 yards from present area. Pill boxes had already been taken. Platoon returned to area. At 1900 the 2d platoon proceeded South of Palo approximately 1000 yards accompanied by a platoon of Infantry. At this point an enemy force estimated as one Company was engaged in a fire fight which lasted for 45 minutes. Five enemy emplacements were destroyed and approximately 30 Japs killed. Enemy Mortar fire forced a withdrawal. Dandy called for air strike on point of enemy positions. Platoon returned to Company area. No casualties.

24 October 1944

At 0815I Company was assigned a mission by the CO of Dandy to advance down route #2 West of Palo. 3rd Platoon left assembly area at 0825I to a point on road one and one half miles West of Palo road cleared to this point. Platoon was forced to stop because of friendly mortar fire and air strike on Hill C. Platoon returned to Company assembly area at 0915I. Report made to CO of Dandy. No enemy opposition and no casualties or rounds fired.

25 October 1944

CO of Dandy assigned mission to Company CO to send one Platoon down route #2 to the foot of Hill B to determine if road was cleared. The mission was assigned to the first platoon. The platoon left Company assembly area at 0845I to the foot of Hill B1 where strong fire from enemy Machine Guns were encountered, two Machine Gun nests were knocked out. Platoon withdrew to Company area at 1005I. The fact that the road was still blocked was reported to CO of Dandy. Two men were slightly wounded by sniper fire. At 0900I CO of Dandy ordered one platoon to support Dandy Blue in their mission of taking Castilla. 2d platoon

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25 October 1944

Provided with one platoon of Infantry to reconnoiter route in advance of main body and encountered sniper and Machine Gun fire at foot of Hill B. Snipers and Machine Gun nests were knocked out in a fight which lasted 45 minutes. Main body of Battalion moved up and advance was continued to Castilla. At 1245I main body of Battalion moved in and set up perimeter for the night. 2nd platoon remained in Castilla over night and were to continue in direct support of Dandy Blue. At 1530I CO of Dandy assigned mission to Company CO for one platoon to convoy 4.2 Mortar Company to Castilla. The 85th Chemical Mortar was contacted and preparations were made. 3rd platoon was assigned mission by Company CO. Convoy left at 1600I and proceeded to Castilla without opposition. Platoon returned to Company area at 1800I without casualties. Company less the 2nd platoon set up a perimeter and spent the night in Palo. Three men were slightly wounded during enemy air-raid at 1430I. Men were treated by Company Aid Men.

26 October 1944

Recon party reconnoitered roads leading into Castilla and Pastrana. Preparations were made for movement to a new Battalion assembly area. At 1600I CO of Rover ordered Company to remain in present assembly area in city of Palo. 2d platoon remained in Castilla in direct support of Dandy Blue. Company less 2d platoon set up perimeter for the night.

27 October 1944

Recon party reconnoitered roads leading to Castilla and Pastrana. Bridge still out between Castilla and Pastrana delaying Company from moving to a new assembly area near Pastrana. 2d platoon remained in Castilla. Company less 2d platoon set up perimeter for the night.

28 October 1944

At 1000I CO of Rover alerted Company to be ready to move to new assembly area in the vicinity of Alangalang. Company less 2d platoon left assembly area in Palo at 1130I. 2d platoon joined Company one mile West of Palo. Company arrived in the vicinity of Alangalang at 1645I. Distance traveled about 11 miles. One destroyer was towed back to Palo for repairs on track. Personnel dug in and perimeter for the night was established.

29 October 1944

Combat patrol was sent out to clear area of snipers. Damaged Destroyer was returned repaired. Recon party reconnoitered roads and bridges South and Southwest to Pastrana to determine if Company could proceed there to continue operations with Dandy. It was impossible for Destroyers to get to Pastrana because of a ten ton bridge. CO of Dandy was contacted and informed of situation on bridge and it was suggested by Company CO that Half-Tracks be sent down to patrol roads South and West of Pastrana. This suggestion was accepted and two Half-Tracks and two M8's were to report to CO of Dandy at 0800I 30 October 1944.

30 October 1944

Two Half-Tracks from 3rd platoon and two M8's from Recon Company proceeded to Pastrana and patrolled roads from that point to points one mile South and two miles West. Company was alerted to move to new area.



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31 October 1944

Company was alerted at 0730I in preparation for move to the vicinity of Jaro at 0830I. Company left assembly area at Alang-alang and moved to Battalion bivouac one mile Southeast of Jaro arriving there at 0945I. Distance traveled approximately 5 miles. Combat patrols were sent out to secure perimeter from enemy snipers.

1 November 1944

Company at Jaro. Company had two natives join them for Recon duties. Company waited in assembly area for further orders.

2 November 1944

Company alerted at 0730I to move to new area in the vicinity of Tunga. Company moved by platoons with 5 minute intervals between serials. The first serial leaving at 0830I and arriving in new assembly area one mile Southeast of Tunga at 0930I. Distance traveled approximately 5 miles. Combat patrols were sent out to clear area of snipers. Personnel dug in for the night.

3 November 1944

A school was conducted for the fire direction personnel. In the afternoon a patrol of 17 men from the Company were sent out to investigate a report from the natives which stated that 20 Japs were seen approximately 2 kilometers outside of Tunga. They encountered an ambush but suffered no casualties, approximately 12 Japs were killed or wounded. Company was put on 15 minute alert notice, due to report from S-2 that a Jap column was proceeding Northeast between Ormae to Carigara. A recon party was sent to reconnoiter possible approach for enemy armor through pass towards Jaro. Company left assembly area at 1530I for Jaro upon orders of the CO of Dandy for indirect fire mission laying down a harassing fire upon enemy positions West of Jaro. Company registered in at 1730I and continued to fire all night. Security perimeter was set up around gun positions.



4 November 1944

Company continued in direct fire mission on enemy positions West of Jaro until 0600I. Guns remained in positions for further orders. Service echelon rejoined Company at Gun positions.

5 November 1944

Company remained in bivouac area near Jaro until 1500I at which time the Company was ordered back to the Battalion assembly area in the vicinity of Tunga. Recon party reconnoitered beach positions in the vicinity of Carigara. Company placed in reserve waiting for further orders.

6 November 1944

Company alerted to move to new Battalion assembly area in the vicinity of Carigara. Company moved by platoons with 5 minute intervals between platoons. The first serial left at 0955I arriving in new area at 1100I. Company was attached to Diamond per V600 Rover for operations from Pinasopcan to Ormae and made reconnaissance for firing positions and assembly area.

7 November 1944

Company alerted to move to new area in the city of Pinasopcan. 1st platoon left at 0815I and the remainder of Company left at 0945I. CO Diamond ordered one section to report to CO Diamond White for mission, 1st section 1st platoon reported.

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7 November 1944

The section was then put in position in the vicinity of CP. Direct fire mission with Machine and 3" Guns were carried out from this point. Two bunkers were definitely destroyed. Area which was reported by Infantry to be held by the enemy was thoroughly shelled. Section then supported advance of Company E who had the mission of securing high ground in our direct front. Mission was completed at 1730I and reported back to the area. 124 rounds of 3", 1000 rounds of 50, and 400 rounds of 30 cal ammo were fired. No casualties were reported.

8 November 1944

1st section of 2d platoon reported to CO 2d Battalion at 0630I and was ordered to stand by. Company received mission at 1430I. Mission was to advance down road and fire on targets that were to be designated by the Infantry. Section advanced to a point approximately one and one half miles South of Pinamopan before firing positions were reached. Section underwent heavy enemy Machine Gun and Small Arm fire. Section continued to advance and engage targets that were designated and also covered areas where enemy fire was being received. After section completed mission they withdrew approximately 300 yards to a position near the advance Battalion CP. At this time the Infantry made a disorganized withdrawal to a point behind the Destroyers. Captain Sawyer and Captain Egan of Rover reorganized the Infantry line during which time the Destroyer section held the ground that had already been gained. After the line was reorganized they reported that one SCR 300 and a trailer load of ammo was left in enemy territory when they were forced to withdraw. Section then advanced up road and recovered radio and ammo which were left behind. The section was relieved of mission at 1700I and reported back to Company assembly area.

9 November 1944

2d section of 3rd platoon reported to the CO of 2d Battalion at the Battalion CP at a point approximately 2 miles South of Pinamopan. Section was ordered to stand by for further orders. Having received no mission the platoon was relieved at 1700I and reported back to Company assembly area.

10 November 1944

2d section of 1st platoon reported to CO of 2d Battalion that Battalion CP was at a point approximately 2 miles South of Pinamopan. Section ordered to stand by for further orders. Received no mission the section reported back to Company area. Per 1800 Rover, Company was ordered to reconnoiter positions for Beach Defense from Colation Point to Pinamopan.

11 November 1944

2d section of the 2d platoon reported to the CO of the 1st Battalion at the 1st Battalion CP at a point approximately 2 miles South of Pinamopan. The platoon was ordered to stand by until bridge was repaired. At 1300I the first platoon was ordered to report to the first Battalion CP. The platoon was under heavy sniper fire several times during the day. The platoon received no mission and was relieved at 1700I and reported back to the Company assembly area.

12 November

3rd platoon reported to the CO of 1st Battalion at 0630I.

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- 12 November 1944 The platoon was ordered to stand by for further orders. The platoon received no mission and was ordered back to Company assembly area.
- 13 November 1944 1st platoon was ordered to report to CO 1st Battalion, at a point approximately 2 miles South of Pinamopon at 0630I. Platoon was ordered to stand by. Enemy Artillery shelled near the Company assembly area. Platoon received no mission and reported back to Company assembly area.
- 14 November 1944 0945I the 2d platoon was ordered to report to the CO 2d Battalion at a point approximately 2 1/2 miles South of Pinamopon. Platoon was ordered to stand by for further orders. Several Artillery shells fall in the area. Received no mission so reported to Company assembly area at 1700I.
- 15 November 1944 Per FO Ramrod dated 15 November 1944, Company was relieved of attachment with Diamond and attached to Razor for direct support of their operation towards Ormoc. CO of Company had a conference with CO of Ramrod and CO of Razor. The Executive Officer of Slugger was named coordinator of armored units attached to Razor. No missions were contemplated until high ground South of Limon was secured.
- 16 November 1944 1st platoon was ordered to be in readiness in Company assembly area for any assignment with Razor.
- 17 November 1944 2d platoon was ordered to be in readiness in Company assembly area for any assignment with Razor. Combat patrols were sent out to secure area of snipers and also to contact friendly troop Artillery. Shells were falling in the Company area. Company furnished guards for ration dump.
- 18 November 1944 3rd platoon was ordered to be in readiness in Company area for any assignment with Razor. Assembly area was under enemy Artillery and small arms fire. Company furnished guards for ration dump.
- 19 November 1944 1st platoon was ordered to be in readiness for any assignment with Razor. Combat patrols were sent out to secure area of any snipers. Enemy snipers were firing over area at LCM's when they attempted to beach. Enemy Artillery shells were still landing in Company assembly area.
- 20 November 1944 Company furnished 60 EM to Razor for the purpose of carrying rations and ammo to the front lines. Japs cut our line of communication from Colasion Point West toward our position, adequate security measures were taken by the Company in setting up a strong perimeter around Company area.
- 21 November 1944 Company furnished 35 EM to Razor for the purpose of carrying ammo and rations to the front lines. Company furnished communication from this point to Division throughout Battalion radio net.
- 22 November 1944 Company furnished 20 men to Razor for the purpose of carrying rations and supplies to the front lines.



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- 22 November 1944 17 men reported to QM Dump for the purpose of cutting bamboo for denage. PMS was held on all vehicles. 3rd platoon moved the Destroyers to the beach to form a barricade for the LCM's protecting them from sniper fire while being unloaded.
- 23 November 1944 Company furnished 15 men to Razor for the purpose of carrying supplies to the front lines in the vicinity of Limon. By the order of the Commanding General, Company Commander reconnoitered areas for direct and indirect firing missions near Limon. Recon party was under Small Arms fire two hours. As a result of the reconnaissance it was recommended by the CO to the Commanding General that immediate employment was impossible mainly because of terrain obstacles. It was reported at 2000I that enemy Tanks were in the vicinity of Limon. 3rd platoon was alerted to be in readiness for any assignment.
- 24 November 1944 At 0615 I one Half-Track and personnel reported to the Executive Officer of Slugger and escorted him to the vicinity of Limon to investigate the report of enemy Tanks in that sector, it was found that the Tanks had withdrawn. Platoon reported back to assembly area at 0730I.
- 25 November 1944 Detail of 20 men reported to Razor for the purpose of digging graves and 29 men reported to the QM Dump.
- 26 November 1944 Detail of 40 men for the purpose of carrying rations to the front lines.
- 27 November 1944 One Destroyer of the 3rd platoon was ordered to report to the base of OP Hill to be ready to fire at any targets of opportunity from the crest of OP Hill. At 1000I the remainder of the platoon was ordered to report. Due to terrain and weather the vehicles were unable to proceed to the firing position on the crest of the hill. Platoon withdrew to the base of the hill and waited for further orders. The platoon remained in that position for the night.
- 28 November 1944 Detail of 20 men reported to the same dump. 3rd platoon made further attempts to proceed to firing positions on the crest of OP Hill but due to the difficult terrain they again withdrew to the base of the hill.
- 29 November 1944 Detail reported to Razor Ammo Dump. 3rd platoon remained at the base of OP Hill.
- 30 November 1944 The Company was relieved of its assignment with Razor and was ordered to report to the Battalion assembly area at Capeocan. 3rd platoon rejoined Company at assembly area near Pinamocan. Due to the poor road conditions only the wheel vehicles were able to report to the Battalion assembly area. Remainder of vehicles and personnel remained on the road one mile East of Pinamocan and waited for the road to be repaired.



James C. Sawyer
 JAMES C. SAWYER
 Capt., F.A.,
 Commanding.

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