

7 December 1944

REPORT AFTER ACTION

For period 23 September 1944 to 1 December 1944, inclusive.

Maps: Central Philippines 1/250,000. Series of Special Maps, Leyte 1/50,000.

1. a. Name of Operations: ASCOM TASK FORCE

b. Code Names Used:

SABER - 1st Cavalry Division	SANDLE - 1st Cavalry Brigade
SHRAPNEL - 1st Cavalry Div. Arty.	SWOED - 12th Cavalry Regt.
STABLE - 5th Cavalry Regiment	SLUGGER - 44th Tank Battalion.
DOVER - X Corps	STUCCO - 82nd Field Artillery.
DOVER - 632nd Tank Destroyer Battalion.	

c. Nature of Operations: Direct support of the 1st Cavalry Division.

2. a. General Missions: Patrols, town garrisons and one reinforcing artillery mission.

b. Specific Missions:

23 October 1944 - Sent a mounted patrol to R. J. (1353.3-1362.3) to reconnoiter reported jeep constructed road to determine length, conditions and amount of work necessary to make road usable.

24 October 1944 - Occupy perimeter of 12th Cavalry on Hill 1300 and establish listening posts.

20 November 1944 - 1 Officer and 24 men garrisoned town of SANTA FE and patrolled vicinity.

22 November 1944 - To patrol wire from SAN MIGUEL to LUKAY; contact and destroy enemy (estimate 80) in the area.

26 November 1944 - One platoon reinforcing artillery indirect fire mission using air observation.

3. Identity of Force: Company "B" 632nd Tank Destroyer Battalion. Maximum Strength, 6 Officers, 120 Enlisted Men.

REPORT AFTER ACTION: (Continued)

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

Captain FRANCIS E. LANG	0401073
1st Lt. RANDOLPH V. FOSTER	0451595
1st Lt. WALTER C. VERLANDER	0397921
1st Lt. KENNETH A. HALLAD	02034677
1st Lt. ROGER M. BERGAN	01822316
2nd Lt. HUBERT S. ROUSH	01686322

4. Character of Hostile Opposition:

None

5. Lessons Learned:

- a. Operating in this area where terrain is soft all movement should be accompanied by 2 D-8 tractors w/winchas to help destroyers negotiate soft clay slopes.
- b. Insufficient training in aircraft identification.

6. Date of Value:

Patrol Reports 25 October 1944 and 26 November 1944.

Walter C. Verlander
WALTER C. VERLANDER,
1st Lt., F.A.,
Commanding.

COMPANY B
632nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 72

WCV/abm

8 December 1944

NARRATIVE CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT

For period 23 September 1944 to 1 December 1944, inclusive.

Maps: CENTRAL PHILIPPINES 1/250,000. Series of Maps LEYTE, 1/50,000.

From 23 September 1944 to 10 October 1944 this company made preparations for movement, performed maintenance, checked ammunition, waterproofed vehicles. Officers reviewed terrain studies, intelligence summaries discussed 10th Corps F. O. #1 and Battalion F.O. #1 and prepared to depart from area to loading slips.

On 11th October 1944 Company boarded LST #469 at 0430I; left harbor at AITAPE, New Guinea at 0600I and arrived at HOLLANDIA, N.G. at 0635I. Followed training schedule aboard ship to 19th October 1944.

Arrived 20th October 1944 at LEYTE ISLAND, Central Philippines and landed at 1330I where vehicles went into assembly area two hundred yards South of SAN RICARDO. On 21 October 1944 moved company 1000 yards West of SAN JOSE on order CO 8th Cavalry. On 22 October 1944 received orders to move company to north side of TACLOBAN. Company started out but was stopped 400 yards west of last position by G-3, 1st Cavalry Division because bridge was out.

On 23 October 1944 received orders from G-3, 1st Cavalry Division to send out mounted patrol (see patrol report) and company moved to bivouac in TACLOBAN.

From 24 October 1944 to 25 October 1944, 2nd Platoon maintained perimeter and listening posts on Hill 1300 Southwest of TACLOBAN.

From 25th October 1944 to 13 November 1944 improved camp, performed maintenance and maintained patrols for snipers Southwest of TACLOBAN.

14 November 1944 company left TOCLABAN 2100I and arrived at TUNGA area 2335I. From 15 November 1944 to 19 November 1944 established new area. Maintained patrols Southwest of TACLOBAN.

On 20 November 1944 sent 2nd Platoon to garrison SANTA FE and on 21 November 1944 sent 3rd Platoon on patrol East of SAN MIGUEL (See Patrol Report). From 22 November 1944 to 25 November 1944 usual camp duties.

CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT (Continued):

On 26 November 1944 2nd Platoon departed for Battery B 82nd Field Artillery on reinforcing artillery fire mission. Maintained SANTA FE garrison. On 30 November 1944 2nd Platoon was relieved of its mission and SANTA FE patrol was called in. Company relieved from attachment to the 44th Tank Battalion and 1st Cavalry Division and passed to Battalion control under Sixth Army.

On 1 December 1944 moved bivouac area 200 yards East of JARD. Improved camp site and began maintenance work.

Walter C. Verlander
WALTER C. VERLANDER
1st Lt., F.A.,
Commanding.

COMPANY B
632nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 72

ESR/ahm

25 October 1944

Patrol Report

Map: CENTRAL PHILIPPINES 1/250,00.

1. Designation and Size of Patrol:

Reconnaissance patrol two half-tracks from 1st and 2nd Platoons of Company "B" 632nd Tank Destroyer Battalion and one M-8 from Reconnaissance Company, 632nd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

1 Officer

17 Enlisted Men

2 Enlisted Men (drivers) from Company "B" 632nd Tank Destroyer Bn.

2. Time of Departure and Return:

Patrol left TACLOBAN at 1159I on 25 October 1944 and returned to Company B Command Post at 1500I 25 October 1944.

3. Mission:

To take a mounted patrol to Road Junction Southwest of the TIGBOIN RIVER (1353.3-1362.3) then southwest along reported jeep constructed road to determine length, conditions, and amount of work necessary to make road usable.

4. Results accomplished:

Left of Highway 1 the road is one land with clay base. It is not suitable to heavy traffic without considerable improvements. The trail is not passable to vehicles. In general the part of the trail which goes South runs on high ground through few groves of palms, but mainly through high grass. There are numerous small stream crossings which require multiple spans and have a gravelly bottom. Most of the trail is swampy. A finished road might be put in to the north of the indicated trail along a hill.

5. Detail Reports:

Monday, 23 October 1944 --

Left Company Area at 1100I and arrived at the reported road junction at 1500I and finally got across the bridge at 1530I. Bivouacced there for the 1st night and made a short reconnaissance up to an abandoned enemy supply dump.

Tuesday, 24 October 1944 --

Started out with all the vehicles, went down to the road at 1353.3-1362.2. Patrol continued down to the south as far as end of road 1353.3-1610.7, dismounted and continued mission with a 7 man patrol. Sent vehicles back to 1353.3-1362.3 and hit the trail indicated there and followed down it for 300 yards where we gained first contact with the enemy.

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5. Detail Report (Continued):

Tuesday, 24 October 1944 (Continued):

Counted 15 dead, apparently by strafing, killed 3, saw 2 going down stream turned and got back out. From previous experience in New Guinea, presumed we were being surrounded. Leaving 9 men to guard the vehicles weakened our patrol so we withdrew, to where the vehicles were and waited there until 1300I. In the meantime a 4 man patrol was sent down to 1353.5-1360.2 and they met no resistance. Patrol returned to vehicles and bivouaced for the night and prepare a foot patrol for the following morning.

Wednesday, 25 October 1944

Started out 0700 with 12 man patrol and 2 War Correspondents. Took vehicles as far as the road went and started on dismounted. Natives reported trail to SANTA FE. We took the trail and about 0900 surprised a party of Japs eating breakfast at 1352.4-1360.1. Captured one Jap armed and continued on up the trail. About 400 yards further we met a party of Japs, killed 4, wounded 2. They were armed with rifles, plenty of ammunition. Total seen - 20. We retreated back down the trail and having no automatic weapons, thought that we should not engage in combat. Withdrawing to 1352.9-1360.2 we then cut off behind a couple of hills on an azimuth of approximately 145°. At about 2000 yards we hit a native trail and followed it until we contacted a Jap sleeping in a hut. We killed him and continued, located an enemy CP, found field phone, wire, empty saber scabbards. Continued on down azimuth 160° approximately. About 1500I we came about 1000 yards in front of the 5th Cavalry, continued on into the 34th Infantry area, hit a jeep road out by the regimental CP to highway 1. Returned to Division CP and vehicles returned to Company CP 26 October 1944 at 1000I.

Report on Road:

Left of Highway 1 the road is one lane, clay up to its end. It is not suitable to heavy traffic without considerable improvements in general. The trail is not passable to vehicles. In general the part of the trail which goes south runs on high ground through few groves of palms but mainly through kunai grass. There are numerous small stream crossings. Streams require multiple spans have a firm gravelly bed. It is very swampy. A finished road might be put in to the north of the indicated trail along a hill. The trail followed Wednesday afternoon is definitely impassable.

Hubert S. Roush
HUBERT S. ROUSH,
2nd Lt., F.A.,
Co "B" 632 T.D. Bn.

25 October 1944

Patrol Report

Map: CENTRAL PHILIPPINES 1/250,000.

1. Size of Patrol:

1 Officer
42 Enlisted Men

2. Time of Departure and Returns:

Patrol left bivouac area Company B 632nd Tank Destroyer Bn 0630I, 24 October 1944 and returned to Company CP 1500I, 25 October 1944.

3. Mission:

To occupy perimeter now held by 12th Cavalry along ridge running south and west of TACLOBAN and to establish listening posts along hill 1300 southwest of TACLOBAN 3000 yards and occupy positions at daylight, 24 October 1944.

4. Results accomplished:

Hill 1300 was hard to negotiate. By 1200I 24 October 1944, patrol leader and 21 Enlisted Men were on top of hill and established perimeter.

5. Detail reports:

Left bivouac area for hill 1300 at 0630I. The Hill was steep and slippery making it difficult to negotiate. At 1200 I patrol leader and 21 enlisted men reached summit and established perimeter. At 0100I, 25th October 1944 5th Cavalry took over Hill 1300 and visual signals were established between 5th Cavalry and Company B, 44th Tank Battalion on ridge on right flank. Patrol was relieved of mission on Hill 1300 at 1300I, 25 October 1944.

6. Condition of Patrol on Returns:

Good.

7. Comments:

None.

Walter C. Verlander, Jr.
WALTER C. VERLANDER, Jr.
1st Lt., F.A.,
Co B 632 TD Bn

COMPANY B
632nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 72

KAH/abm

26 November 1944

Patrol Report

Map: CENTRAL PHILIPPINES 1/250,000.

1. Designation and size of patrol.

Lukay patrol from Company B 632nd Tank Destroyer Battalion.
1 Officer
42 Enlisted Men
4 Native guides

2. Time of departure and return

Patrol left SAN MIGUEL at 0700K 22 November 1944, reached 2nd. Brig. Headquarters 1st Division at DITT 25 November 1944.

3. Mission

To patrol along wire to Lukay, contact and destroy enemy (estimate 50) in the area.

4. Results accomplished

The patrol made no enemy contacts or found any signs of enemy in area. One hut found with indication of women being there but no recent signs. Wire was cut in 5 places in close vicinity of Lukay, one loading coil removed.

5. Detail report (See Overlay)

- a. Location and nature of enemy positions. (None)
- b. Enemy observed (None)
- c. Enemy encountered (None)
- d. Character of terrain covered.

Trail from SAN MIGUEL to BUSAY RIVER through rice paddies very muddy and difficult. Area from BUSAY RIVER to LUKAY, deep swamp. LUKAY to DITT good trail with few swamp areas.

- e. Details of stream crossings and obstacles.

BUSAY RIVER could not be crossed at wire, found bridge 2 miles west. Swamp was over head deep in several places. Deep areas were crossed by wire.

6. Conditions of patrol on return.

Feet in poor condition.

7. Comments.

This patrol returned through DITT due to the obstacles encountered in swamp area. Resupply from SAN MIGUEL as planned was not possible. Dover switch taken out 24 November 1944 with no means of tying SALUTE line into another board. Patrol out of communication.

8. Recommendations.

Future patrols be supplied by air drop at LUKAY.

Kenneth A. Hallead
KENNETH A. HALLEAD
1st Lt. PA. Co B 632 TD

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