

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY
632d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 72

Report after action for the period 23 Sept 44 to 30 Nov 44

Name of Operation: ASCOM TASK FORCE

Nature of Operation: Support of Ascom Task Force and in seizing and holding
Leyte Island, P. I.

Code Names

Dover - 10th Cav
Danger - 24th Inf Div
Hamrod - 32d Inf Div
Rover - 632d TD Bn

Mission of this Unit: 1. Recon for this Bn of hostile mechanized vehicles
2. route recon for movement of Bn. Security for 632d TD Bn

Composition: Recon Co less 2nd platoon, 1 officer and 21 MM attached to Co B
632d TD Bn. 6 officers and 113 MM Recon Co 632d TD Bn

Roster of Officers

Capt Eldon A Haase
1st Lt Benjamin O Pascoe
1st Lt Milton J Bodjak
1st Lt William R Junkman
1st Lt Charles E Myers
1st Lt Pascal Adamo
2nd Lt James R Fitzsimons
2nd Lt Raleigh Hammond

Hostile Opposition: Light. Snipers around assembly area and along road

Lessons Learned: Incl 1

Data of value: -

Operations: -

Photographic: None

Eldon A. Haase
ELDON A HAASE
Capt., F. A.,
Commanding

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Lessons Learned 27 Sept 44 to 30 Nov 44

1. Operations -

- a. When conditions permit, assembly areas should not be picked near artillery firing positions. Artillery positions are subject to bombing by enemy planes.
- b. If organization is not committed it should be held far enough in the rear to be out of range of enemy artillery.
- c. Rcn platoon when being used should be within the perimeter of assembly area so they can rest.

2. Communications -

- a. 608 and 610 radios are not reliable for any great distance and arrangements should be made for relay stations between Rcn vehicles and command set

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Report after Action Rcn Co 632d T D Bn
Ascom Task Force

Maps - Central Philippines 1/25000; Kabalawan SE, Dagami NE, Kabalawan SW, Carigara SE, Carigara NW. Special Map: 1/50000 Carigara - Capoccan

- 23 Sept 44 A detail of 1 officer, 5 NCO and 60 MM reported to beachmaster to work from 1300I to 1800I. The remainder of the company had inspection of arms, vehicles, quarters and crew-served weapons.
- 24 Sept 44 Usual camp duties. Volleyball playoff between platoons in the afternoon.
- 25 and 26 Sept 44. The three rcn platoons fired 37MM and MG mounted in M-8. All men fired.
- 27 Sept 44 One platoon prepared to practice loading on LST. LST was unable to beach on account of shallow beach. All radios in the company were tested and adjustments made. Lt Hammond trfd Det of Pnts APO 713.

Company started preparations for move on 28 Sept. An inspection was made of all company property on 28 thru 30 Sept. Company was paid on 30 Sept. From 1 Oct to 3 Oct the company crated company property and loaded vehicles of 4th platoon. Barracks bag racks were removed from tent and hauled to dump. Lt Pascoe trfd to Det of Pnts, hosp unknown on 3 Oct. 2nd Lt Roush in command of 2nd platoon, were attached to Co B 632d T D Bn. Rcn platoons were out training in mounted reconnaissance work the 4, 5, 6 of Oct. Balance of company continued preparations for movement. 1st Lts Wojdak and Myers reported to this company for duty. The 7, 8 and 9 Oct were spent by taking down camp installations and complete loading of company equipment. On the 10 Oct company broke camp and at 0930I 3rd platoon joined Co C for movement to loading area. 2nd platoon left to join Co B at 1000I and the balance of the company joined Co A for movement at 1050I. Set up kitchen in assembly area and fed troops at 1230I. Started loading of LST 458 and completed loading at 0500I. Troops reported aboard ship at 1200I 11 Oct and LSTs retracted from beach at 1530I and set sail for Hollandia. 3rd platoon was loaded on ship with Co C. Ship entered Hollandia harbor at 0515I 12 Oct, beached at 0830I to disembark troops to be loaded on other ship, took on a bulldozer and driver.

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at 1215I retracted from beach and anchored in harbor. Abandon ship drill at 1415I.

13 Oct 44

Our ship took its place in convoy and left Hollandia harbor at 1640I. A schedule was put out and the company, less 2nd and 3rd platoons, had orientation classes on Leyte Island, motor stables and care and cleaning of arms and crew-served weapons from 14 thru 19 Oct. All vehicles were water-proofed in preparation for landing. Routine guard and fatigue details aboard ship. We crossed the Equator at approximately 1300I on 14 Oct.

20 Oct 44

At dawn we were entering San Pedro Bay and Leyte Island could be seen in the distance. At 0625I a lone Jap plane flew over convoy and was shot down. At 0630I the Navy started shelling the beach. Our LST tried to beach at Red Beach at 1100I but was unable to get close enough to shore to get vehicles off. The ship tried to beach again at 1320I but were forced to retract. At 1400I the ship again tried to beach at a different spot but could not make the beach. At 1450I ship dropped anchor in the bay and we remained there for the night.

21 Oct 44

At 0900I the Bn CO HT and 1st Rcn platoon loaded onto a LCT and were taken ashore. They landed safely ashore at 1000I. The LST again went in and beached about 200 yd from shore. Seabees built a floating ramp from ship to shore and we started unloading the remainder of the vehicles at 1445I. By 1610I all vehicles were in an assembly area about 350 yds from Red Beach. Company remained in the assembly area for the night.

22 Oct 44

One Sgt and 5 EM scouted the immediate area of assembly area for snipers, none were found in the area. At 0900I Lt Myers and 3rd platoon left on rcn for route from assembly area to road leading from beach to Highway #1. After reaching Highway #1 platoon picked out new assembly area North of Palo. Bn less Co B moved from assembly area near Red Beach to new assembly area arriving there at 1415I. Moved to new location nearer Highway #1 and set up perimeter for night.

23 Oct 44

Lt Rodjak and one section of 1st platoon left on mounted rcn of road and bridge to Palo. If bridge would not hold M-10 they were to find fords to cross the Palo River. One section 1st platoon established OP on hill 522 to watch for enemy mechanized or motorized movement. 3rd platoon left with S-2 to select new assembly area for Bn Hq, Co A and Rcn Co. Company OP closed at 1600I and opened at 1715I in new assembly area 600 yds W of Palo bridge near hill 522, placed out perimeter guard.

24 Oct 44

Jap snipers were in the area. Lt Rodjak and 16 EM left to

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to find the snipers and clear the area between Highway 1 and Talo River. Lt Myers and 12 men left at 1015I to assist in covering the area. Remained in the same assembly area for the night.

- 25 Oct 44 Platoons did not go out on com today. Received sniper fire about 1730I, patrols did not find any enemy around area.
- 26 Oct 44 The 1st and 4th platoons went forward to guide Ln into new area and to prepare the entrance from road to assembly area. Company GP closed 200 yds W of Talo at 1500I and opened at 200 yds E of Talo at 1530I. 1st and 3rd platoons made local com of surrounding area. Negative report.
- 27 Oct 44 Lt Bodjak and platoon sgt of 4th platoon went out to check the bridges between Talo and Santa Fe as to their tonnage capacity. Lt Myers and platoon made mounted com for route across country around bridges and back to Highway 2. Impossible for vehicles to travel cross-country. Lt Bodjak reported first bridge would hold 20 tons, with a ford for heavier vehicles, and the second bridge would hold 35 tons. Combat patrol went out 1630I returned 1715I, did not contact anyone in area.
- 28 Oct 44 Lt Myers and platoon made com to the south assembly area, found nothing to report. At 1115I company GP closed and company moved to assembly area at Alangalang, arriving there at 1630I. Made local com for snipers, set up kitchen and dug in gun pits for perimeter defense.
- 29 Oct 44 Com Co assigned the mission of patrolling road and to check the bridge for sabotage from Alangalang, Santa Fe to Pastrano. 1 section 3rd platoon left on patrol of road at 1345I returned 1645I. All bridges were intact and serviceable. 1st platoon made route com of road and across country for route and firing position for M-10 in support of attack on Jaro. Security patrol in area.
- 30 Oct 44 Security patrols in area left at 0645I and returned at 0715I with negative reports. 3rd platoon left on road and bridge patrol to Pastrano. After reaching Pastrano platoon assisted CO 632d TD Bn in patrolling road from Pastrano to Benga Danga. Unable to reach destination due to shell crater and destroyed enemy vehicles blocking road. Returned to CP at 1630I to haul Co D 189th C.A.S. to position in support of 34th Inf Regiment. Completed mission at 1615I. Security patrols patrolled area in vicinity of CP for snipers. Negative report.
- 31 Oct 44 Lt Bodjak and first platoon left to pick new assembly area for Bn less Co B. First section 3rd platoon left at 0750I on bridge patrol from Alangalang to Pastrano. Company GP closed at

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Alangalang at 0820I opened 600 yds W of Jare cemetery at 0920I. Sent out security patrols and set up perimeter for night. First section of 3rd platoon returned at 1045I.

- 1 Nov 44 Remained at CP area. Security patrols out at 0730I and 1615I.
- 2 Nov 44 One section 4th platoon and guides from 3rd platoon left with S-2 to select new assembly area. Company alerted to move and closed CP at 0835I, opened in new area 300 yds S Tungga at 0910I. M-8 from 3rd platoon left on road run to Carigara to check bridge as to capacity and for ford across stream for movement of M-10s. Security patrols sent out at 1645I.
- 3 Nov 44 Lt Bodjak and first platoon left on road run to Carigara at 0645I. Mission to find crossing of Carigara River. Unable to ford river, platoon returned at 1715I. Morning and night security patrols out.
- 4 Nov 44 1st section 1st platoon made run of road from CP to Capoccan. Usual security patrols. Radios were checked and reset.
- 5 Nov 44 Usual security patrols. Care and cleaning of equipment and material.
- 6 Nov 44 Scout corporal and guides went forward with S-2 to new assembly area for sn. Pioneer platoon went forward at 0900I to repair entrance to area. Company CP closed at 0935I opened 1 mile W of Carigara on Highway 2 at 1010I. Security patrols sent out and perimeter defense set up.
- 7 Nov 44 Lt Myers and Lt Bodjak made run of beach from Carigara River to river 1 mile W for position for M-8s for beach defense. Security patrols out morning and evening. Negative reports.
- 8 and 9 Nov 44 Usual security patrols out. Care and cleaning of equipment and material. 11 vehicles checked by maint section.
- 10 Nov 44 Pioneer platoon put in corduroy road from Highway 2 to beach for M-10s of A Co. Usual patrols.
- 11 to 16 Nov 44 Pioneer platoon completed road to beach on 11 Nov. Company carried out local security patrols twice a day. M-8s bore-sighted and bore-sightures and functioning of M-8s was taken up. Lt Junkman reported for duty from sick leave on 14 Nov.
- 17 Nov 44 Company and M-8s moved from present area to Colasian Pt. Set up perimeter for night. A number of enemy artillery shells landed in bay off Colasian Pt. Enemy planes dropped bombs outside of perimeter at 2035I.

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Lt Adams and Lt Fitzsimons reported for duty with the company. Lt Adams assigned as Fourth platoon leader.

18 Nov 44

Still at Celasian Pt. Enemy artillery dropped numerous shells close in around area. One SM from 4th platoon slightly wounded while working on road from area to Highway 2. Company moved from Celasian Pt to Nalang at 1900L. Established local security for night.

19 Nov 44

No change in situation.

20 Nov 44

Company ordered to move to Capeosan to relieve I Co 126 Inf of perimeter defense of 32d Div CP. Second platoon relieved of duty with Co B and returned to company. Lt Roush and platoon reported in at Capeosan at 1115L. Effected relief of I Co, company under direct command of Reg Commandant, Col Meyers, 32d Inf Div. Two machine gunners went out with M-2 to clear road block at Celasian Pt. One man slightly wounded by enemy fire. Lt Fitzsimons and two M-8s reported to General Lyman at Celasian Pt.

21 Nov 44

Lt Fitzsimons and two M-8s returned to CP. They spent the night with artillery as security. No change in situation. The company remained on perimeter of 32d Inf Div until 30 Nov. Enemy artillery shells dropped in and around the area nearly every day during this period. During an air raid at 0900L on 24 Nov two machine gunners shot down one enemy plane. On 29 Nov Lt Redjak made a run from Capeosan to Carigara. Road was found to be impassable for M vehicles.

30 Nov 44

Company was relieved of outpost duty as of 0830L by A Co, 126th Inf and made preparations to move to vicinity of Carigara along beach. CP closed out at Capeosan at 0915L. The last vehicle of company arrived at Varigara at 1715L. Company was delayed along route due to the tide coming in and it was impossible to ford rivers at high tide. Vehicles were parked on streets in Carigara and the evening meal served. Company was alerted to move to En bivouac area in the vicinity of Galatan, North of Jaro. Company left Varigara at 2310L, arriving in bivouac area at 0130L. Posted security and bedded down for night.

Eldon A Haase
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Capt., F. A.
Commanding

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