

**HEADQUARTERS RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY  
SIX HUNDRED & FORTY FIRST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

July 5, 1944

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS</u>
May 27/44	0815	Landed in vicinity of Bosnak, Nil opposition, set up guns to cover advance of 166 Infantry. Did no firing from position.
	1230	Received march order from Capt. Gattala, moved to position near Iddi to support 162 Infantry. No firing done. Established perimeter for the night.
May 28/44	1800	Received orders from Capt. Gattala to move to positions vicinity of Parai Jetty. As the four Dak's did not arrive in time, remained in same position for the night.
May 29/44	0900	Left area near Iddi.
	1800	Arrived Parai Jetty, received some sniper fire. Set up Mortars 400 yards west of Jetty to support 162 Infantry.
	1300	Received orders that 162 Infantry was to withdraw. Platoon to cover with drawal by fire until very last then to destroy mortars and withdraw personnel. Orders came from Lt. Col. Bailey, 162 Inf.
	1640	Expended 180 rounds of ammunition of all types. Lt. Russell observing. As soon as all ammunition was expended mortars were destroyed by use of grenades. Personnel were evacuated with amphibious craft to Bosnak. Night was spent in vicinity of Bosnak.
May 30/44	1200	Moved to join first Platoon, vicinity of Iddi. Dog in for the night.
May 31/44	N	No Change.
June 1/44		No Change.
June 2/44	1300	Received six 4.2 mortars to replace those destroyed. Spent remainder of day cleaning them and preparing them for use.
June 3/44	1730	Occupied position 300 yards W. of Iddi. Lt. Sandrick in command of platoon as Lt. Bell was sick.
	1930	Guns adjusted to cover right flank of K Co. 162 Infantry and Btry C, 205 F.A. with defensive fire. Intermittent harassing fire scheduled.
	2100	Cease fire ordered as our fire made nearby units nervous. Expended 8 rounds WP and 1 1/2 Rounds MG.
June 4/44	1120	Ordered to move to new position as an pipe cul air strip was to be built where we were. Moved 50 yds South. No firing.
June 5/44	N	No Change.
June 6/44	N	No change.
June 7/44	1700	Left position at Iddi, moved to Parai Jetty by water on 4 DUKW'S to support 3rd Bn 162nd Inf.
	1830	Arrived Parai Jetty, established perimeter and set up mortars.
	1900	Registered for defensive fires. Expended 4 WP and 7 MG.
June 8/44	1940	Lt. Russell, FO, reported he was under heavy mortar fire. Requested adjustment. Expended 3 WP and 1 MG.
	1100	Communications to OP went out. Pvt. Kelly returned to organization to report Lt. Russell killed and Pvt's Pendergast and Daley wounded. New FO party with S/Sgt. White as observer, organized and sent out.
	1700	Continued fire started by Lt. Russell. Intermittent fire ordered for night.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
June 4	2230	Cease fire, orders of Lt. Col. Hollister, 88 3rd Bn 162nd Inf. Expended 9 WP and 60 MG. Results: temporary silencing of enemy mortars, direct hit on enemy machine gun.
June 9/44	1400	Re-registered on same enemy strong point on ridge North of Molmer Village at 90 yards greater range. Expended 2 WP and 22 MG.
	1730	Effect: temporary silencing of enemy mortars. Expended 16 MG on same area. Effect: silencing of enemy mortars firing into Regt 1 Bn 162nd Inf.
June 10/44	1900	Expended 30 MG on same area, enemy mortar fire still observed.
	0800	Increased range 150 yards and started heavy interdiction fire on ridge North of Molmer Village. Minimum rate of fire, 1 round per minute. Purpose of fire to keep road free of enemy fire to allow 162nd Inf, 7 tanks and 90 trucks of supplies to go to Molmer Drome Village. During pause to shift base plates on mortars, enemy mortars fired 6 rounds onto the road killing one man and wounding five. Fire immediately picked up again.
	1000	Cease fire given. Expended 890 MG. Enemy mortars apparently silenced.
June 11/44	0645	Requested by Maj. Buzan, Lt. of 1st Bn 162nd Inf to fire concentration in same ridge area to discourage enemy fire on road.
	0858	Cease fire, expended 145 MG. Good results indicated by free passage of troops and vehicles rest of day.
	1915	Enemy opens fire on road again.
	1930	Fire same concentration on ridge.
	1945	Cease fire, expended 60 MG.
June 12/44	0700	Again fired concentration on ridge North of Molmer, expended 38 WP and 77 MG. Good effect indicated by free passage of troops and vehicles to Molmer Drome.
June 13/44	1740	Re-registration on same target with better observation from an MG with 3 tanks aboard to fire on ridge. Enemy mortar and machine gun fire falling on road again.
	1912	Cease fire given, expended 15 WP and 290 MG. Good effect indicated by free passage of vehicles to Molmer Drome on the 11th.
June 14/44	1045	Received orders from G3, 41st Div. to move to Molmer Drome on 15th
June 15/44	0900	Departed from Parai Jatty on 4 DUKW'S
	1800	In position 100 yards North of Molmer Drome.
	1645	Registered in and fired on West Cave area in support of 3rd Bn., 162nd Inf. Expended 8 WP and 38 MG.
	1900	Registered on 4 naval gun emplacements to furnish preparatory barrage for attack by 2nd Bn 186th Inf at 0800 hours tomorrow. Expended 10 WP.
June 16/44	0800	Fired preparation fire in conjunction with the 81 MM mortars. Expended 379 MG. Searched and traversed area 250 by 200 yards.
	0850	Ceased fire. Effect: After running into stiff resistance the previous day, the attack this morning met minor resistance. An estimated 40 to 50 dead were found in the area.
June 17/44	0925	Registered in and fired harassing fire on main access road to enemy held West Caves. Covered 300 yards stretch of road. Expended 9 WP and 115 MG. During this fire No. 3 mortar proved erratic. Tests were made and it was a defective tube rather than a damaged sight or standard.
	1310	Fired concentration on enemy field piece. Target also being fired on by 81MM mortars and artillery. Effect: Silenced, expending 1 WP and 40 MG.
June 18/44 to 20th		Remained in same position. No firing done.
to 21/44	1100	Received new mortar, serial No. 1315, lot No. 380-11, in exchange for defective one, No. 3 section.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS</u>
June 22/44		Usual camp duties. No firing.
June 23/44	1100	Moved to position 300 yards East of Molmer Drome to fire on East Caves on ridge North of Molmer Village. The same target as fired on from June 8th to 13th. Heavy mortar and small arms fire harassing engineers working on jetties and roads.
	1230	Registered in on cave area with ground observation. 1A. Col. Ostroms using air observation then made precision adjustment on caves. Expended 45 WP.
	1600	Fired concentration on caves. Expended 288 M3, all rounds in cave area. Estimate 1/4 rounds landing in cave.
	1800	Fired concentration on caves. Expended 48 WP and 120 M3. Effects same as before.
June 24/44	0700	Fired concentration on cave area. Expended 49 WP and 280 M3. Effect same as before.
	1630	Moved to position 600 yards East of Baraboo Drome. Relieved attachment 162nd Inf and attached 186th Inf.
	1830	Registered on Jap strong point. Observation very poor due to rough terrain and tall trees. Registration made in area about 400 by 400 yards, expending 8 WP. Effect: When infantry moved into area they found recently abandoned positions and weapons. It was found that rounds of our registration landed right on target.
June 25/44	1750	Received orders to move into position 1900 yards North of Molmer Drome. Position area inside perimeter of 1st Bn 186th Inf. Move to be made tomorrow.
June 26/44	1600	Failed to move until this time because trucks failed to show up. Set up inside 186th Inf perimeter.
June 27/44	1145	Adjusted and fired on enemy strong point on ridge in support of 3rd Bn 186th Inf. Expended 120 WP and 85 M3. Effect: 32 enemy dead found in area.
	1630	Registered 3 mortars for defensive fires for 1st Bn 34th Inf. Expended 3 WP and 9 M3.
June 28/44	0700	Displaced one mortar, 3rd section, to old position 300 yards E of Molmer Drome to mark east caves for air strikes. Adjusted on target by air observation. Expended 12 WP.
June 29/44	1100	Received orders from CG to move back to old position to put continuous fire on East caves.
	1300	Received 4 trucks from CM for move.
	1430	Arrived new position area 300 yards E of Molmer Drome.
	1630	Registered on E caves. Air observation and precision adjustment by Capt. Gattula. Initial plan, harassing fire at rate of 4 rds per hour. Proved insufficient as enemy kept firing on road and jetty construction crews.
	1930	Increased rate of fire to 15 rounds per hour. 2/3 of fire to be WP during darkness. All M3 in daylight. Smoke not used in daylight because it is a hindrance to our air craft.
June 30/44	2000	Enemy fired last rounds onto road.
	0415	Fire observed in cave area, lasted 30 minutes.
	0800	Reported to CG that two direct hits on enemy bunker was obtained during the night and probably destroyed.
	1700	Column of gray smoke coming out of cave mouth, continued till dark. Tried three rounds of delay fuse—all duds.
July 1/44		Continued fire at 15 rounds per hour all day. No response from Japs.
July 2/44	1145	Made readjustment for M3 ammo. S/Sgt. White observing. Fired all day.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENT</u>
July 3/44	1045 1430	Ordered to cease fire. Expended 348 rounds WP, 697 rounds MP, and 176 rounds MG. Report received that patrols had reached lot camp north, captured four, 20 M M Guns, and mortar Ammo. No opposition.
July 4/44		Normal camp duties. Capt. Saunders, S-3 98th Chasl. Bn. arrived. Notified that 61st T.D.Bn. had been redesignated 98th Chasl. Bn. (Mtd.)
July 5/44	1300	Received information that Infantry had reached East Caves, found some enemy dead, killed 3, captured 2-20 MM guns 1-.50 cal and 1-.30 cal. MG. Radio equip and several lockers of papers.
July 6/44		Usual camp duties.
July 7/44	0900	Capt. Saunders left for Hollandia. Usual camp duties.