

AFRER ACTION REPORT  
HQ 654th TD Bn.

FROM: 1 Aug 44.  
TO : 31 Aug 44.  
FRANCE.

1. The 654th TD Bn remained attached to 35th Inf Div and further attached to 35th Div Arty.
2. Secondary mission performed during month was by one company. Fired two concentrations. Type fire interdiction and unobserved. Result unknown.  
No of rounds fired ..... 101 HE  
No of guns fired ..... 12
3. Primary mission performed during month by the Bn Cos were used in close support of the Inf Regts. Liaison was maintained between the TD Cos and Inf Regt. Targets engaged were enemy strong points ( in houses). Enemy MG nests, tanks, SP guns and OPs.

"A" Co - enemy contact for period was at MORTAIN and MONTARGIS. At MONTARGIS enemy material destroyed; one MK IV tank and several American trucks and one 75MM gun that were captured by the Germans. A Co lost three M-10s, destroyed, (one by Arty fire and two by direct fire of MK IV tanks). One ten and half truck was burned up by enemy fire. At MONTARGIS A Co in position just at edge of town and was stopped by a road block that was mined and booby trapped. This was removed by the help of A Co's T-2 retriever, which lifted the large trees off the road.

"B" Co - had contact with the enemy at MORTAIN, ORLEANS and GIEN. At MORTAIN the Co was under heavy Arty fire for three days and captured a MG nest and two prisoners. At ORLEANS B Co knocked out two enemy tanks, two towed guns, unknown number of AT guns, one SP 75MM gun, one motor truck and one enemy OP in tower. One M-20 was slightly damaged by Arty fire. At GIEN B Co captured the town with the elements of Rcn Co and took a total of 19 prisoners.

"C" Co - had contact with the enemy at MORTAIN and MONTARGIS. C Co routed a five men patrol of the town of LEBILLIENEL. Capt Benton with five volunteers went beyond Inf front lines and captured ten Germans, which Capt Benton had seen in a prior rcn to this point. At MONTARGIS C Co was in support of the 320 Inf Regt. At this town C Co with a plat of Rcn Co entered the town of MONTARGIS before the Inf and established positions liberating the town. The following equipment was destroyed: two MK IV tanks, one 20MM AT gun, four 37MM guns, ten MGs (cal.30), one SP assault gun, three strong points. Following was captured 145 PW. (10 officers) 12 horses, 10,000 rds cal 30 Ammu, 3 vehicles passenger personnel carrier, 5 automobiles, 1- 1/4 ton truck. The list above is approx as there was much more equipment taken but C Co could not control the French who overran the place picking up arms and Ammu.

"Rcn" Co - Rcn plats were attached to each gun Co on every mission and were very valuable in each case. In ORLEANS they established an OP and manned it under heavy Arty fire. In MONTARGIS, the Rcn plat leader had his plat recon routes to enter the city and then lead the Rcn plat act as security giving much help. A plat of Rcn was attached to the Inf at COURTNEY and made rcn to the south and as far as TROYES getting much information of the enemy. This plat lost one 1/4 ton and one M.C. when it hit an advance guard of a German column moving through the town of APOIGNY. The Rcn plat constructed a bridge at TROYES which would hold the weight of a M-10 or approx 35 tons. This bridge was very helpful in clearing traffic through the city as before there was only one bridge across the SEINE River.

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The Bn moved for the month of Aug from CONDE SUR VIRE to TROYES.

AW for the period.

266 enlisted men and 10 officers.

Enemy material destroyed:

5 M IV tanks  
2 SP guns 75MM  
5 37MM towed guns AT  
2 20MM towed  
1 mortar  
1 truck  
1 OP  
3 strong points  
10 MGs

Enemy materiel captured:

15 AT guns (37MM)  
6 AA guns (20MM)  
21 MGs (1-34)  
15 Mortars  
3 trucks (loaded with blankets and clothing)  
2 kitchen trucks  
12 horses  
2 ten passenger personnel carriers.  
1 30 passenger carrier.  
5 automobiles  
1 1/2 ton truck

The above has been accounted for and more equipment was present but the Free French picked up innumerable MGs, rifles and pistols.

MINTON

OFFICIAL:

*Berry*  
BERRY  
S-3.