

HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

1-30 APRIL 1944

1 May 1944

SUBJECT: Operations Report

TO : Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C. (thru channels)

1. In compliance with the requirements of paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated March 10, 1943, the following operations report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion covering the period, 1 April 1944 to 30 April 1944, is herewith submitted.

2. The operations covered in this report are statements from the Unit Journal and the Battalion Diary, and supporting evidence for said statements is attached.

3. Previous operations report submitted and including 31 March 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

James B. Gray
JAMES B. GRAY
Capt., 701st T.D. Bn.
Adjutant.

OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period - 1 April - 30 April 1944

Location of 701st T.D. Bn. beginning of period:

Map - Italy, 1/50,000
Sheets 150 I, II, III, IV
Grids 4229

- Div. CP - 867227
- Reg. Co - 867228
- A1 Co - CP 860252; A1 - 861219 (6 guns); A2 - 862253 (6 guns)
- B Co - 860217; B1 - 864217 (6 guns); B2 - 862215 (6 guns)
- C Co - CP 991218 (Atand to 601 TD Bn); C1 - 991218; C16274; C19208; C11267; C2 - 989279; 969282; 005293 (2 guns); C3 - 008208; 011202; 000202; 004207.
- CP's - (A-Ray) - 851290; (Tele) - 876207; (Zebra) - 918295
- Bn. Medical Detachment (with Trains) - 875218

Beginning of the month the battalion minus one company ("C" Co.) continued its operations in VI Corps reserve. "C" company attached to 601st TD Bn. operating in the 34th Inf. Div. sector in anti-tank role in support of the 34th Inf. Div. reconnaissance company continued manning three

1400

OP's in vicinity of 851290, 876267, and 918295. "A" and "B" companies in Corps Reserve occupied artillery positions reinforcing the artillery fire of 91st AAA Battalion.

The period from the 1 April to 5 April was inactive. The battalion firing "A" and "B" companies as artillery and "C" company in a static anti-tank positions. With the aid of the newly set-up FDC in the battalion Hqs. the proficiency of our artillery fire was greatly improved. The battalion FDC in no sense operated a regular Field Artillery FDC. The battalion FDC aided the company FDC's by supplying metro corrections, plotting of initial data to observed targets, assigning fires to batteries, coordinating the registration of batteries with Hon. Co. observers, and also, plotting and calculating of all massed fires for the battalion.

The inactive period on the Anzio Beachhead presented an ideal opportunity for training of the battalion in artillery methods. On 4 April Major Moran, the battalion commander, organized a forward observation school to teach the officers in the battalion the finer points in Aerial Bracket and Aerial Precision Fire. The school was held for 10 days at "Yoke" OP in vicinity of 875268.

"C" company on the night of 5th April in cooperation with the 108th Inf. Regt. harassed the enemy by direct fire on personnel, flakwagons, known MG positions and strong points. The results of "Shoots" on night of 5-6th April are unknown, but the M-10's crews enjoyed pouring 336 rounds of 84 out of 7 guns at the enemy. One of the M-10's from "C" company, while enroute from the "shoot" back to regularly occupied anti-tank position received a hit from enemy mortar shell; wounding two enlisted men and damaging the breechblock of the gun. Despite the retaliation by the enemy after each of these roving gun direct fire harassing missions, the crews enjoyed the role.

The 7th April the battalion received three officers from replacement depot attaching them to the battalion for duty and combat training: 2nd Lt. Rudolph C. Anderson was attached to "B" co., 2nd Lt. Carl B. Greene to "A" company, and 2nd Lt. Samuel Mendlow to Hon. company.

A relief of "C" company in direct fire position in the 34th Inf. Div. sector was planned by the battalion. The move was planned for the night of 14-15 April. On night 10-11 April "A" company was ordered to reconnoiter in 168th IOT sector in preparation to relieve "C" company on night of 13-14th April. Reconnaissance by "A" company of "C" company's anti-tank positions was successful and without incident.

Morning of 13 April the 2nd platoon of "B" company was alerted for movement to the 34th for raid in that sector planned for the 15 April. At 1930 hrs 2nd plat. under Lt. Williams left the company area in vicinity of 862205 and moved to assembly area at 904100. The platoon closed at 2135 hrs without an incident.

Night of 14-15 "A" company moved from in vic. of 862252 as planned to relieve "C" company in an anti-tank role in 34th Inf. Div. sector. Due to road restrictions and movement of troops in the 34th Inf. Div. sector movement by "A" company had to be staggered; 1 platoon leaving at 1930 hrs under at 2100 hrs and the last at 2230 hrs; the company trains at 2400 hrs. Route of march - 1st Padigliano CR, Ironside, Truscott, Le Forriero, Conca, and up Conca - Cisterna road to positions. The relief was completed without incident, "A" company closing in anti-tank positions at 0200 hrs. "C" company's movement from 34th Inf. Div. sector to "A" company's old positions was also made without incident, closing in area at 0400 hrs.

The IOT raid in which the 2nd platoon "B" company was taking part,

jumped off at 0500 hrs 15 April. One section of 2nd platoon "B" company was attached to Co. "A", 1st Armd. Regt. and the other section attached to a platoon of light tanks from 1st non. Bn. to protect left flank at 0333174. The one section of 2nd platoon under Lt. Anderson in role of protecting the left proceeded up Tank road leading the light tanks. At 023161 a large crater was encountered in middle of road. An attempt was made to get across crater but due to its depth and soft bottom the M-10 bogged in the crater. The second M-10 following closely behind the leading gun came to the rescue and made an attempt to pull out the bogged gun by hooking a cable to the rear pinde and backing down the road. This attempt failed and a decision was made to by-pass the bogged gun. A wide sweep was made off the road in the by-passing maneuver. The maneuver was not successful for the M-10 hit an AT mine, blowing a track and crushing a bogie which immobilized the gun. A call for help was radioed back to the 1st non. Bn. The maintenance section of the 1st non. Bn. came up with a T-2 rolled over the bogged gun and opened the road for the light tanks to continue with their mission. The section operating with the medium tanks from Co. "A", 1st Armd. Regt. proceeded down Grand road covering the advance of the medium tanks. The sections encountered AT mines which had to be cleared by the M-10's crews as they advanced. The maneuver of the section with the medium tanks was successful without any loss of personnel or equipment. The raid terminated at 1030 hrs with the raiding party returning to their bases with 61 prisoners.

The battalion maintenance crew with the aid of 1st non. Bn. maintenance and the 10th Engineers retrieved the two disabled M-10's in the following 48 hours.

Major Hedding returned to the battalion from absence sick, 16th April. His return put him in command of the battalion. The following

changes were made in the battalion staff; Major Moran, executive officer, Capt. King, S-3, and Lt. Cox as assistant S-3.

"B" company and "C" company remained in artillery positions for the remainder of the month supporting the fires of 91st AFA Bn. Majority of fires consisted of unobserved TOT fires. To fill out the program between lulls in our artillery missions "B" and "C" company concentrated on maintenance of equipment, 100 hr. checks of M-10's and training.

Major Moran battalion executive held schools in forward observation methods for the battalion officers and use and adjustment of 3 inch shell M10, M10A.

ANNEX:

Total rounds fired for month:

ME - 10405
 Time - 368
 X - 356
 MG - 12

 TOTAL 11221

Casualty List:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Ser. No.</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Co.</u>
2 Apr.	Kempelman, Elmer H.	Sgt.	37131810	LWA	"C"
2 Apr.	Perry, Ralph L.	T/5	34117316	SMA	Non
11 Apr.	Carlson, Carl L.	PTC	37290774	LWA	"B"
11 Apr.	Kielbaso, Andrew F.	T/5	33247390	SMA	"B"
11 Apr.	Slair, Joseph H.	Pvt.	33113712	KIA	"B"
11 Apr.	Digallia, Fred B.	Sgt.	36130686	SMA	"A"
13 Apr.	Fields, William T. Jr.	Pvt.	38017906	LWA	"C"
13 Apr.	Myers, Bernard H.	Pvt.	6990517	LWA	"C"
5 Apr.	Ulsan, Kenneth H.	Pvt.	38017962	LWA	"C"

Awards:

Bronze Star

1. S/Sgt. Aurelius (NMI) Geist - 6856203 - "C" Co. - Gen. Ord. #24, 4 Apr.
2. T/5 Victor J. Phillips - 6959998 - Hq. Co. - Gen. Ord. #25, 6 Apr.
3. 1st Lt. John H. Wright - 0419084 - "A" Co. - Gen. Ord. #26, 8 Apr.
4. S/Sgt. Peter (NMI) Karp - 39675568 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
5. T/4 George L. Baldwin - 15047931 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
6. T/5 Oscar H. Swanson - 36165161 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
7. Pfc. John H. Walter - 31088129 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
8. Pvt. Herbert H. Stamba, Jr. - 32261828 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
9. Sgt. John H. Foster - 31117012 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
10. T/5 David H. Stiff - 31088676 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
11. Pfc. Harold H. Hudson - 35337405 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
12. S/Sgt. Peter (NMI) Karp - 39675568 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
13. Pfc. Arthur H. Russel - 31036307 - Non. Co. - " " " " "
14. Pfc. Sylvester H. Weismayer - 37183134 - Non. Co. - " " " " "

Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart

1. Sgt. Fred B. Dayillie - 36130686 - "A" Co. - Gen. Ord. #16, 12 Apr.
2. Sgt. Frank A. Lawrence - 32203428 - "A" Co. - Gen. Ord. #27, 19 Apr.
3. Pfc. Frank S. Loxzal - 37111075 - "B" Co., - Gen. Ord. #28, 26 Apr.

Purple Hearts

1. T/5 Charles H. Jost - 33090791 - "B" Co. - Gen. Ord. #23, - 1 Apr.
2. Pvt. Gerald D. Benfield - 31037054 - Non. Co. - Gen. Ord. #23 - 1 Apr.
3. T/5 Ralph L. Perry - 34117316 - Non. Co. - Gen. Ord. #26 - 6 Apr.
4. Pvt. Eugene A. Morana - 31347102 - "A" Co. - Gen. Ord. #28, 26 Apr.

Purple Hearts (Cont'd.)

5. 1/5 James L. Stewart - 31172082 - "C" Co. - Gen. Ord. #28 - 26 Apr.
6. Pvt. Frederick H. Brown - 11000210 - "A" Co. - Gen. Ord. #28 - 26 Apr.
7. Pvt. William H. Rogers - 15012533 - "B" Co. - Gen. Ord. #28 - 26 Apr.
8. Pfc Carl L. Carlson - 37290774 - "B" Co. - Gen. Ord. #28 - 26 Apr.
9. Pvt. Howard (Bill) Deak - 0015686 - Hq. Co. - Gen. Ord. #28 - 26 Apr.
10. 1/5 Raymond S. Huffman - 36311891 - "A" Co. - Gen. Ord. #28 - 26 Apr.