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

1 August 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 July 1944 to 31 July 1944, is herewith submitted.

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

3. Previous operations report submitted and including 30 June 1944.

DOWNGRADED TO: For the Commanding Officer:

CLASSIFICATION REMOVED

AUTHORITY OF TAG... W.D.T.

*Jesse B. Wray*  
JESSE B. WRAY  
Capt., 701st T.D. Bn.  
Adjutant.

25 Mar 44 HCP  
Date Initials

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OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period - 1 July - 31 July 1944

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

Map - Italy, 1/50,000  
Sheets 158-1, IV, GSGS 4229

- Bn CP - 527127. Bn Trains - 594035
- "A" Co - CP - 512122; A1 - 508161; A2 & A3 - 512122
- "B" Co - CP - 604122; B1 & 2 - 602172; B3 - 624167
- "C" Co - CP - 480110; C1 & 3 - 398220; C2 - 448176
- Rcn Co - CP - 513125; 1st Rcn Plt. - 599090 (w/Co Mn);  
2nd Rcn Plt. - 508162; 3rd Rcn Plt. - 504168.

July 1st found the Battalion in action and attached to 1st Armored Division in vicinity of Pomarance, Italy. The Battalion, less "B" & "C", attached to Task Force Howze. "B" & "C" companies attached to CC "A" & CC "B" respectively. Reconnaissance continued on its mission of route reconnaissance for TFH and "A" company continued to give direct AT support.

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Major Doran was placed in command of the left column of TFH. The force consisted of the 701st T.D. Bn. (--"B", "C", 2 plt. "A"), 1st Bn 6th Inf., "D" Co, 13th AR, "D" Co, 1st AR. The mission of this force was to secure the town of Mazzola and road junction on highway #68 2000 yards to the north. No time was set for the attack. Troops making up this force were in the line and had to be assembled prior to the jump off.

One M10 in "B" company received a shell through the turret, killing the crew and burning the vehicle. Another vehicle in "B" was hit with an AP which penetrated the fuel tank. The vehicle was still operative so continued forward until it was knocked out by an AT mine.

On July 2 both the Command Group and Trains moved to vicinity 4815. Recon. Co. less 2nd plt. also in same vicinity for maintenance.

"C" company lost two M10's destroyed.

July 3 - Doran Force to jump off at 0930. Recon. company ordered to send all available light tanks and armored cars, also Pioneer Plt. to CP of 13th AR to function as reconnaissance for TFD.

Upon arrival at Mazzola the advance elements were heavily shelled by artillery. An OP was established and fire brought down on both gun and mortar positions.

The attack was discontinued and those with Major Doran in Mazzola were ordered to hold the town but to evacuate by 2400 hrs. The town was cleared as ordered but on return an M10 of "A" company threw both tracks and had to be abandoned, also a light tank from Recon. company.

"C" company relieved for maintenance at 0600 hrs and pulled back to assembly area vicinity 414230. This area was heavily shelled, killing the 1st Sgt. and knocking out the Command Half-Track.

July 4 - The Battalion (less "B", "C", & Rcn) was put in Div. Reserve,

Major Doran, commanding, and moved to assembly area vicinity 478174 and to be prepared to support either CC "A" or CC "B". The 2nd Bn, 1st AR (-2 Cos) attached to Div. Reserve. Recon. Co. further attached to TFH. It took up positions as dismounted outpost in area vacated by TFH after withdrawing from Mazzola. "A" & Hqs. moved to assembly area where maintenance and rehabilitation were stressed.

July 5 - Division ordered the Battalion to establish a road block vicinity Saline to protect the left rear of CC "B". One section of "A" company and 1 platoon of "D" Co, 1st AR under command of platoon leader of "D" Co. were given the job.

"B" & "C" companies continued to provide AT protection for the two CC's. Nothing reported by these companies, everything was comparatively quiet.

Late in the afternoon of July 5, one platoon of "A" company was detached from Div. Reserve and attached to TFH.

July 6 - The remaining units of "A" company not already detached from Div. Res. were attached to CC "B". The detachments already made were not changed.

"C" company with the Peanut Force report resistance very light, mostly infantry and that they are on their objective.

Orders were received relieving Rcn Co by the 349th Inf, 88th Div. and upon relief Rcn will take charge of the road block vicinity Q499212 and in addition to that maintain a mounted patrol during the hours of darkness on road net between Q500180, Q504195, Q476202, and Q499212 and this will have to be coordinated with 81st Rcn.

"B" company had nothing other than routine reports.

July 7 - Our Ln. Officer with 13th AR reported that CC "A" was counter-attacked by a considerable number of infantry and several tanks but that it

was repulsed. TFH also was counterattacked and withdrew. Platoon of "D" company, 1st AR that was holding road block was relieved from attachment to CC "B" and reverts to control of 2nd Bn, 1st AR.

On orders from 1st Armored Division all companies remain in position and that the Battalion, ~~less Recon.~~, had been attached to the 88th Div.

July 8 - Upon attachment to the 88th Div. the gun companies were further detached to the following: "C" Co. to the 351st RCT, "B" Co. to the 349th RCT, and "A" Co. to the 350th RCT. Rcn Co. remained under Bn. Control to maintain AT warning net within Div. sector.

Gun companies moved with the infantry providing AT protection but had nothing of importance to report.

July 9 - Infantry and our TD's entered the outskirts of Volterra; except for heavily mined areas there was no resistance. From all indications the enemy appears to have completely withdrawn.

It. Hudson reported fresh Mk VI tracks but never observed the tanks themselves. While moving his CP into new area, captured 3 PW's, otherwise had nothing to report except mechanical difficulties due to terrain.

July 10 - Attachments of companies remains the same. The Bn CP moved into same place as "C" company. Our Ln. Officer with the 88th Div. reported a counterattack on the 350th Inf. of over company strength.

July 11 - The attack was continued today with our guns in direct support. During the day there was a noticeable increase in enemy artillery reported. "C" company reports the town of Laitico was burning. No other reports.

July 12 - The Bn CP was shelled at 0220B; Major Doran, Bn C.O. and 3 EM KIA and 14 EM wounded. During the early afternoon one round fell within the Bn CP area and killed one EM and wounded 3 others.

Captain Childs promoted to Major.

"A" company received several rounds of our own artillery which was quickly straightened out. No damage.

Nothing reported by other companies other than movements from one firing position to another.

July 13 - Companies had nothing to report; everything was very quiet.

July 14 - "A" company reports that they are moving north in two columns but that they are having difficulty because of obstacles in streams and roads. Except for "A" company's report, nothing was reported by the other companies except for normal movements to improve firing positions.

July 15 - 24 - This period was not one of great activity as far as the gun companies were concerned. The mission of providing AT protection for the NCT's of the 88th Div. as the enemy withdrew to the Arno River gave the TD's the opportunity to fire on some enemy vehicles and personnel.

Upon relief from attachment to the 88th Div., the Battalion reverted to control of 1st Armored Division in a rest area about six miles south of Cecina, Italy.

July 24 - 31 - This period was given over to rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance of vehicles, and reorganization of the Battalion under the new T/O & T/E. Our training consisted of radio procedure, gun drill with some firing at towed targets on the 1st Armored Division A/T range. The Battalion was officially reorganized 31 July 1944.

Location of 701st T.D. Bn. at end of period:

Battalion - vicinity Q245038

**ANNEX:**

**Ammunition expended during the month of July:**

M.E.	- - -	1878
A.P.C.	- -	562
Smoke	- - -	18
Time (M54)		<u>14</u>
Total	- -	2472

**Casualties:**

**See Attached.**

Following is a list of Battle Casualties (all categories) sustained by this organization during the period 1 - 31 July 1944. (\* Indicates hospitalized.)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
COOPERMAN, HAROLD	32780786	Pvt.	B	1 July 44	KIA
*CURRAN, JOHN	35026213	Pvt.	C	1 July 44	LIA
HALIMAN, JAMES H.	37554211	Pvt.	B	1 July 44	KIA
FULMER, WILLIAM R.	37101644	T/5	B	1 July 44	KIA
CHAMBERS, BALDWIN B.	37005968	Cpl.	B	1 July 44	KIA
STEFFAN, MARTIN G.	37129800	Sgt.	B	1 July 44	KIA
SORENSEN, ARTHUR E.	32353701	Pvt.	B	1 July 44	LWA
*HAMMETT, MAURICE L.	34147367	Pfc.	Rcn.	1 July 44	SWA
NEW, HUBERT	6669669	Cpl.	B	2 July 44	KIA
GRAFORD, JR., ALBERT B.	34133988	Pfc.	Rcn.	2 July 44	LWA
*ANDERSON, RUDOLPH O.	01823079	2nd Lt.	B	2 July 44	LIA
*PARIS, JACK D.	14053121	Sgt.	B.	2 July 44	LWA
ASLING, ARNOLD A.	37519651	Pvt.	B	2 July 44	LWA
*BAILEY, WALTER E.	37131802	Pvt.	B	2 July 44	SWA
*SING, ENG W.	32175070	Pfc.	C	2 July 44	LWA
MORGAN, DELOSS B.	37449685	Pfc.	C	2 July 44	LWA
FEE, ROBERT	15053822	Pvt.	C	2 July 44	LWA
*COSBY, CECIL C.	6985611	T/4	C	3 July 44	LWA
*BLANK, DONALD J.	33246805	Sgt.	A	3 July 44	LWA
DIXON, MATTHEW	34088281	1ST/SGT.	C	3 July 44	KIA
SHANNAHAN, JOSEPH J.	6831793	Pvt.	Rcn.	4 July 44	LWA
LANGDON, DONALD L.	13085355	Pfc.	Rcn.	4 July 44	LWA
ANDERSON, CLAYTON	35262612	Pvt.	Med. Det.	4 July 44	LWA
BOWMAN, BENEDICT J.	35106351	Pvt.	C	6 July 44	KIA
COOPER, JR., THOMAS A.	34171527	T/5	C	6 July 44	KIA
MANGUM, GEORGE W.	37368178	T/5	C	6 July 44	LWA
KING, WILLIAM C.	14004817	Pvt.	C	6 July 44	LWA
*DELMAGE, DAVID V.	12082072	Pfc.	C	6 July 44	LWA
*HARBER, JERRY J.	33209549	Pvt.	C	6 July 44	LWA
*BLANKENSHIP, WILLIAM A.	6985393	S/Sgt.	B	7 July 44	LWA
STREET, HARVERD J.	34125474	Sgt.	C	7 July 44	LWA
MILLS, HARDEE R.	14013784	Sgt.	C	11 July 44	MIA
DORAN, FRANK M.	0282923	Major	Hq.	12 July 44	KIA
*COOGAN, JR., WILLIAM G.	01821827	2nd Lt.	A	10 July 44	LWA
WILKENS, WALTER B.	32230748	Pvt.	Hq.	12 July 44	KIA
DENT, RAY W.	34088281	Pvt.	C	12 July 44	KIA
WEST, JR., ROBERT	15057024	Pvt.	C	12 July 44	KIA
BOYLE, EDWARD J.	33318232	Pvt.	C	12 July 44	KIA
*DURARD, EARLE	34147403	T/5	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
*McKENNA, CHARLES J.	20233525	Pvt.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
*JUSTUS, GILBERT W.	38487139	Pvt.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
GREEN, CARL M.	01822696	2nd Lt.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
BOLIN, JR., LUTHER	15054689	T/4	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA

List of Battle Casualties cont'd.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
BRUETT, ERNEST E.	36302149	Pfc.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
DUHAIME, ALBERT J.	31379247	Pvt.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
GRUIS, BERNARD H.	39305488	T/4	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
MIDKIFF, NOBLE H.	35482495	T/5	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
SEAMAN, JOHN R.	36397305	Pfc.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
YESLOFSKY, MURRAY	32175782	Pvt.	Hq.	12 July 44	LWA
*TALIAFERRO, ERNEST E.	15047713	Pfc.	C	12 July 44	LWA
*HAJJAR, MICHAEL	11046319	Pvt.	B	12 July 44	LWA
*REPKA, BOLESZAW S.	32387217	Pfc.	C	12 July 44	LWA
*ROBERTS, CONDY	15044275	Pvt.	C	12 July 44	LWA
*SPENCER, PORTER J.	7040507	Pvt.	C	12 July 44	LWA
SCOTT, ROBERT S.	33397226	Pvt.	B	15 July 44	LWA
*LENZINI, HERMAN C.	36302260	Sgt.	C	15 July 44	LWA
HODOR, STANLEY	31124452	Pfc.	C	15 July 44	KIA
DEGMAN, JOHN T.	01822378	1st Lt.	B	18 July 44	LWA
SNELL, CLARENCE H.	34508911	Pvt.	C	24 July 44	KIA
PICCOLI, SYLVESTER C.	33778453	Pvt.	A	18 July 44	LIA



## A W A R D S

1. During the period 1 - 31 July 1944 the following named personnel were awarded Purple Hearts for wounds received in action:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Hammett, Maurice L.	34147367	Pfc.	Rcn.
Paris, Jack D.	14053121	Sgt.	*B
Schramski, Jerome J.	36160515	Pvt.	A
Russell, Lloyd W.	33090117	Sgt.	A
McKenna, Charles J.	20233525	Pvt.	Hq.
McNair, John L.	38018181	Pvt.	C
Urban, Earl L.	35029497	S/Sgt.	C
Street, Harvard J.	34125474	Sgt.	C
Cosenza, Peter C.	13098939	Pfc.	C
Seaman, John R.	36397305	Pfc.	Hq.
Justus, Gilbert W.	38487139	Pvt.	Hq.

2. During the period 1 - 31 July 1944, and Oak Leaf Cluster was awarded in addition to a Purple Heart previously awarded for wounds received in action, to the following listed personnel:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Moody, Leveston	37088629	Cpl.	B
Blank, Donald J.	33246805	Sgt.	A
Patrick, Isadore	34088170	Sgt.	B
Hiatt, Paul	37103779	Tec 5	C
*Degman, John T.	01822378	1st Lt.	B

\*(First and Second Cluster)

3. Pvt. William E. Ware, 7040392, Reconnaissance Company, was posthumously awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action on 22 June 1944, per General Order No. 70, headquarters First Armored Division, dated 21 July 1944.

4. Capt. Albert B. Morrison, 0422189, and 1st Lt. Robert J. Jackson, 01822010, were awarded Bronze Star medals for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944, per General Orders No. 70, Hq. First Armored Division, dated 21 July 1944.

5. S/Sgt. Earl L. Urban, 35029479, Sgt. Ralph B. Laney, 34171574, Cpl. Allen E. Knorr, 33230761, and Tec 5 Leonard L. Jokerst, 37132039, all of Company "C" were cited for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944, per General Orders No. 71, Hq. First Armored Division, dated 22 July 1944.

6. S/Sgt. Melvin F. Dailey, 32033802, Medical Detachment, was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star medal for gallantry in action on 22 June 1944, per General Orders No. 71, Hq. First Armored Division, dated 22 July 1944.