

Secret  
Per Auth CG 1st AD  
Initial:  
Date: 18 November 44.

HEADQUARTERS  
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
ARO 464, c/o Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

1 November 1944

SUBJECT: Operations Report

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

1. In compliance with the requirements of paragraph 10, Ait 345-105, dated March 10, 1943, the following operations report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion covering the period 1 October 1944 to 31 October 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 up to and including 30 September 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

JOHN E. DOOLEY  
1st Lt., 701st TD Bn.  
Adjutant.

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#### OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period - 1 October - 31 October 1944

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

Map - Italy, 1/50,000

Bn. CP - 700766. Bn. Trains - 697777

"A" Co CP - 698769 (assy area)

"B" Co CP - 707777 (assy area)

"C" Co in arty positions vicinity 200860 (attached to BRF)

Rcn Co CP - 695774 (assy area)

The period opened with the battalion ("C" Co) in assembly area vicinity Prato-Florence area. "C" company, attached to Brazilian Expeditionary Force under IV Corps control, continue artillery support role.

1 to 13 Oct. - Battalion ("C" company), in assembly area, carried out rigorous training and maintenance schedule. Physical conditioning of personnel and maintenance of all vehicles was stressed. Training schedule for this period included gun drills (all weapons), radio procedure, use of AF and map reference point codes, map reading and inspections of personnel and

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equipment. Three days were spent on 1st Armored Division anti-tank range by all 3" and 37mm gun crews firing both platoon and individual firing problems. Rifles and carbines were fired by all personnel on 1st Armored Division rifle range. Orientation and training films were scheduled during periods of inclement weather. On 13 November route reconnaissance was made from battalion assembly area to vicinity 820043 (Puta Pass) by all unit commanders. Billeting details from each company remained in new areas.

14 Oct. - Preparation of battalion (-"C" Co) for movement. Departed area vicinity 47077 at 140900. Order of march - "A", "B", Rcn., Hqs. Battalion closed in areas 141345 October 1944 - Bn CP - 806046. Bn Trains - 817044; "A" Co CP - 811052; "B" Co CP - 812058; Rcn Co CP - 818046. Remainder of day spent in establishment of bivouac.

15 Oct. - Reconnaissance of area vicinity 845223 for artillery positions by "B" company officers.

16 Oct. - "B" company departs area vicinity 812058 at 0500A, closing in artillery positions at 0730A hrs. "B" Co CP at 845223; "A" btry at 8436-2250; "B" btry at 84702242; attached to 1st Armored Division artillery in support of 91st AFA battalion.

FM radio CPX carried out by battalion (-"B" & "C"). Use of A-209, AF code and map reference point code and correct radio procedure stressed.

17 Oct. - Maintenance and training. Battalion "B" & "C" companies in artillery positions.

18 Oct. - "A" company made reconnaissance for anti-tank positions in CC "A", 1st Armored Division sector for 3rd platoon and moved platoon at 1600A closing in positions 820262, 828261, 830263, and 831263 at 2100A hrs. Bn. CP moved from 816046 to 818045 closing at 1800A hrs. Battalion (-"B" & "C") continued maintenance of vehicles.

19 Oct. - "A" company (-3rd platoon) alerted for movement 1400A hrs, departed vicinity 809055 at 1645A closing in artillery positions at 2100A hrs.

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at 857229. "A" battery - 85672295; "B" battery - 85622270; attached to 1st Armored Division artillery in support of 27th AFA battalion upon closing.

20 to 26 Oct. - No change in dispositions, "B" company and "A" company (-3rd platoon) continued reinforcing fires of 1st Armored Division artillery. Counterbattery fire damaged two "A" company M10's on 21 October. No casualties. Maintenance and winterizing of vehicles continued throughout the battalion.

27 to 31 Oct. - Reconnaissance company assigned mission of maintaining route #6527 from 819043 to 780190 on 27 October. Moved company on 30 October to: CP - 808045; 1 & 2 Rcn Plts - 795095; 3rd Rcn & Pioneer Plts - 772127. "A" and "B" companies continued in reinforcing artillery roles carrying out normal harassing missions with few observed fires due to poor visibility.

Positions of Battalion at close of period:

Bn CP - 818045. Bn Trains - 817044.  
Rcn Co CP - 808045. 1st & 2nd Rcn Plts - 795095.  
3rd & Pioneer Plts - 772127.

Detached Units:

"A" Co CP - 857229. 1st Plt - 85672295  
2nd Plt - 85622270  
3rd Plt - (1 gun each) - 826262; 828261; 830263;  
831263.  
"B" Co CP - 843224. "A" btry - 84362250; "B" btry - 84702242.  
"C" Co CP - 191995. "A" btry - 18790008; "B" btry - 18490010.

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ANNEX:

Ammunition Expenditures:

HE	-	11781
SMOKE	-	176
PIPE	-	<u>18</u>
TOTAL	-	11975

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CASUALTIES

1. During the period 1 - 31 October 1944 the Battalion suffered the following personnel casualties:

- Tec 5 Arthur E. Lawson, 33 098 752, Co A, SNA, 20 Oct 44
- Tec 5 George W. Wachter, 33 553 309, Co A, SNA, 20 Oct 44
- Pvt Henry D. Harper, Jr., 18 137 434, Co A, LIA, 21 Oct 44
- Pvt Irvin M. Peterson, 37 095 774, Hq & Hq Co, IWA, 24 Oct 44 (Not hosp)
- Tec 5 Elbert W. Rugar, 32 136 057, Hq & Hq Co, IWA, 24 Oct 44 (Not hosp)

2. During this period the following changes in status of former Battle Casualties occurred.

- Sgt Hubert Woosley, 15 046 136, Co A, returned to duty
- Sgt Frank G. Allen, 33 126 411, Co C, from MIA to KIA as of 22 Jun 44
- Tec 5 Arnold W. Richson, 36 803 500, Co C, from MIA to KIA as of 22 Jun 44
- Pfc Carl C. Anderson, 36 457 419, Co C, from MIA to KIA as of 22 Jun 44
- Pvt Clarence I. Parker, 33 090 663, Rcn Co, returned to duty
- 1st Lt. Walter E. Loveless, 01 823 546, Rcn Co, returned to duty
- Pfc Ernest E. Taliaferro, 15 047 713, Co C, returned to duty
- Cpl James E. Worrell, 34 171 222, Co A, returned to duty
- Pvt Eng W. Sing, 32 175 070, Co C, rehospitalized for former wounds.

AWARDS

1. During the period 1 -31 October 1944 Awards to the following named personnel of this organization were announced:

a. 1st Lt JOHN T. DEGEMAN, 01822378, and Cpl Joseph T. Simon, 37098945, both of Co "B", were awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action on 1 July 1944 near Mensano, Italy, per General Orders No. 86, Hq 1st Armored Division, dated 3 October 1944.

b. General Orders No. 87, Hq 1st Armored Division, dated 19 October 1944, awarded Purple Hearts and/or Oak Leaf Clusters thereto to the following:

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|---|----------------------|
| 1st Lt. John T. Degman, 01 822 378, Co B      | 4th Oak Leaf Cluster |
| S/Sgt William A. Blankenship, 69 853 93, Co B | 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster |
| S/Sgt William A. Blankenship, 69 853 93, Co B | 1st Oak Leaf Cluster |
| Pvt Arnold A. Aeling, 37 519 651, Co B        | P/H                  |
| Pfc Frank Bertino, 32 433 343, Rcn Co         | P/H                  |
| Pvt Kenneth L. Ford, 37 512 515, Co B         | P/H                  |
| S/Sgt John R. Foster, 34 147 012, Rcn Co      | P/H                  |
| S/Sgt William H. Goolsby, 63 82728, Co B      | P/H                  |
| Pvt Joseph F. Herman, 32 324 406, Co B        | P/H                  |
| Tec 5 Donald L. Langdon, 13 085 355, Rcn Co   | P/H                  |

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Awards of Purple Hearts and/or Oak Leaf Clusters thereto cont'd.

Pvt Gunval Mattson, 37 098 335, Co B	P/H
Sgt Rex Meredith, 6 669 909, Co B	P/H
Sgt William E. Roy, 15 043 980, Co B	P/H
Sgt Edward K. Salley, 15 057 131, Ren Co	P/H
Pvt Joseph J. Shannahan, 6 831 793, Ren Co	P/H
1st Lt. John R. Short, 01 823 223, Co B	P/H
Pfc Arthur E. Sorenson, 32 353 701, Co B	P/H
Sgt Oscar E. Swanson, 36 185 161, Ren Co	P/H
1st Lt. Norman Vigderhouse, 33 193 261, Ren Co	P/H
Tec 5 James F. Upchurch, 34 134 349, Ren Co	P/H

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