

SECRET

1. August 1944: (cont'd)

1 August 1944:

The 1st platoon less "A" and "B" companies, second platoon of Reconnaissance Company and 1st platoon of "A" Company closed in bivouac near south of Rennes at 1800, 1st platoon at 1800 and arrived in position in vicinity of Rennes at 1800. At this time the 1st platoon less "A" and "B" companies, 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company and 1st platoon of "A" Company were acting as part of the advance guard of the 1st platoon of "A" Company. "A" Company plus 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to Combat Command "A". First platoon of "A" Company plus 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to 1st platoon of "A" Company. "A" Company plus 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to 1st platoon of "A" Company. This latter platoon had a tank engagement on this afternoon. The 1st platoon of "A" Company plus 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company was destroyed. One platoon of "A" Company was killed by fire from enemy tanks.

2 August 1944:

The 1st platoon of "A" Company moved at 0600 to join the rest of the division north of Rennes. The 1st platoon of "A" Company was given command of the 1st platoon of "A" Company. The 1st platoon of "A" Company was moved forward and the 1st platoon of "A" Company moved to the front, 4 km. north of the city. "A" Company moved in to relieve elements of 38th and 37th Tank Battalions in the line north of Rennes.

3 August 1944:

Held positions of previous day. At 1400 "B" Company fired a few rounds at buildings and a road block on the outskirts of the city. At 1700, the 1st platoon of "A" Company moved into the city with "A" Company supporting leading battalion and "B" Company in support of 2nd battalion. The attack bogged down immediately and "A" Company lost the first tank lost to enemy fire. The attack was called off.

4 August 1944:

The battalion was taken out of the line north of Rennes and with no further action proceeded at 0600 to the south of the city, by passing the city, to support Combat Command "A" which was threatened by a tank attack from the southeast. The battalion bivouaced in the vicinity of Janze.

5 August 1944:

The battalion proceeded at 1400 to move to the West arriving in position five miles of Rennes at 1800. Distance traveled, 60 miles.

6 August 1944:

Maintenance of vehicles and personnel all day.

7 August 1944:

Battalion assigned duty of guarding Combat Command "A" trains at Auray. This was done with 18 vehicles. At 2000 one platoon of "A" Company took up position in Auray to hold and defend roads.

8 August 1944:

Positions same as day before. Outpost duty performed at Auray and the plain.

9 August 1944:

The battalion maintains positions as day before. "C" Company joined in attack on city of Lorient under Combat Command "A".

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(After Action Report, Hq 704th TF Bn for July and August 1944, cont'd)

10 August 1944:

Proceeded to new area. Crossed IP at 0800, closed in bivouac 12 miles North of Nantes 1700, distance traveled 90 miles. Company "A" was attached to the 53rd Armd Inf Battalion.

11 to 13 August 1944:

Care and cleaning of equipment. In position North of Nantes outposting the area and patrolling roads.

14 August 1944:

Moved out at 0800 to East. At 2400, 130 miles had been covered in general North easterly direction. Arrived in bivouac area 0545, 15 August in vicinity of St Calais. Distance travelled 154 miles. During the period 1 August to 14 August, Company "B" plus 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company was attached to Combat Command "B" and detached from the Battalion. On 1 August, "B" Company was bivouaced near St Quentin (T3112). The company left this bivouac area at 1330 and marched South 51 miles arriving in position 1/2 mile NE of Bretton (Y0666) at 0130, 2 August. The column was strafed by enemy planes at 1700, 1 August. On 3 August the company moved forward with Combat Command "B" leaving this bivouac area at 0930 and advancing 90 miles to Derval (T3902) closing in bivouac at 0500, 4 August. The company left this bivouac area at 1100, 5 August and moved 30 miles to a position 3 miles East of Aud. In this position it was learned that the 1st Platoon, on 27 July, had destroyed two AT guns, two OP's, and probably one Mk V tank in Coutances and also that the second platoon at Chateau-Brion on 4 August had met enemy resistance and had killed two and captured 14 of the enemy. On 5 August the company left its bivouac area at 0500 to proceed toward Orient but the column was halted and the company bivouaced 1 mile East of Baud for the night, leaving this area at 0615, 7 August and resuming the march West, it arrived in position 5 miles South of Pont Scorff (T5927) at 1600, 7 August and was subject to an hours heavy shelling at this time. On 7 August at 1600, Captain Nelson, Company "B" Company Commander and Lieutenant Kelly, Battalion Headquarters, acting as Liaison Officer for the company to Combat Command "B" were killed when Combat Command headquarters was heavily shelled in bivouac 1 3/4 miles South of Pont Scorff. Lieutenant Wilson assumed command of the company. On 8 August the company was under artillery fire all day. The first platoon took and secured Pont Scorff on this day and the attached Reconnaissance Platoon reduced two enemy strong points, taking 50 prisoners. On the night of 8-9 August, and the following day our positions in Pont Scorff were shelled steadily. One T-20 was hit by shell fire.

15-18 August 1944:

The battalion less "A" and "B" companies and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company was attached to Combat Command "A". Battalion (-) 1st Bivouac 7 miles Northeast of Lelans 1,000 and joined Combat Command "A" on route from St Calais to Orleans on the morning of the 16th. Combat Command "A" was in two columns and Lt. Colonel Oden was in command of the North column. The battalion moved east approximately 50 miles until resistance was encountered at Ormes about 10 miles north of Orleans. The advance continued and the resistance was driven back until nightfall when the battalion moved into bivouac about 10

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(After Action Report, Hq 704th TD Bn for July and August 1944, cont'd)

northwest of Orleans. The attack was continued at daybreak the 16th and fell at about 1600. Company "C" met resistance at Saran north of Orleans killing six enemy and taking 24 prisoners without casualty to itself. At 1800 the battalion bivouaced 1/2 mile west of Cercottes. At about this time Lieutenant Minogue in a M-20 Armored Car in Cercottes intercepted three enemy vehicles coming from the North. He opened fire, destroyed the three vehicles killing three of the occupants and wounding four. Among the wounded was a colonel bearing important documents from Paris for the German commandant at Orleans. These documents were captured.

17 August 1944:

Lt. Colonel Oden, Captain's Costello, Fogarty, McKone, and Tanner were transferred to 35th Tank Battalion. Lt. Colonel Bailey, Captain's Dunton, Lamb, Onkes, and Lt. Tytus were assigned and joined from 35th Tank Battalion. Lt. Colonel Bailey assumed command of the battalion. Captain Onkes, Captain Dunton and Lt. Tytus were assigned to battalion headquarters with duties as S-4, S-3, and S-1 respectively. Captain Lamb was assigned to Hq Company and assumed command.

18 August 1944:

Battalion (-) detached from Combat Command "A", attached to Combat Command Reserve. Company "C" attached to Combat Command "A", Company "B" detached from Combat Command "B", attached Combat Command Reserve. Battalion (-) left bivouac 1000 marched west about 70 miles. Closed in bivouac 1/2 mile West of Prunay about 8 miles Southwest of Vendome 1600. Company "B" rejoined the battalion in this area which it reached 17 August, after a 232 mile march accomplished in two days from the vicinity of Lorient.

19 - 20 August 1944:

Battalion (-) in same area. Care and cleaning of equipment and maintenance. Company "B" outposted Reserve Command and patrols from Reconnaissance Company covered surrounding area. 20 August, Lt. Minogue transferred to 35th Tank Battalion. Lt. Cole assigned and joined from 35th Tank Battalion, assigned to battalion headquarters with duties as Liaison Officer. Lt. Hughes assigned joined Battalion from 53rd Replacement Battalion, assigned to Reconnaissance Company.

21 August 1944:

Battalion (-) left bivouac 1030, marched 33 miles to new area 1/2 mile southeast of Chantome, closed in bivouac 1600. Company "B" was withdrawn from the Reserve Command column en route to meet a reported enemy armored column and went into position 1/2 mile West of St Amand. The enemy column did not materialize and Company "B" was relieved of tis mission at 1945 and rejoined the battalion in bivouac at 2200.

22 -24 August 1944:

In same area under Reserve Command. Surveyed routes to points on Loire River between Blois and Orleans where enemy thrusts were possible. Battalion held in readiness to repel any such thrust across the river. 1st Lt. Sacks and Phaelzer assigned and joined from 53rd Replacement Battalion, Lt. Sacks assigned to "B" Company and Lt. Phaelzer assigned to "A" Company.

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(After Action Report, Hq 70 [redacted] July and August 1944, cont'd)

25 August 1944:

Battalion (-) left bivouac 0930, marched 138 miles to new position 1 1/2 miles North Villeneuve, closed in bivouac 2300.

26 August 1944:

In bivouac, Reconnaissance Company and "B" Company on outpost duty and on patrol around perimeter of Reserve Command Area. WCJG Praglowski assigned and joined to Battalion Headquarters with duties as Battalion Personnel Adjutant.

27 August 1944:

Battalion left bivouac 0940, led Reserve Command column 26 miles East to new position 2 miles North of Macey. Closed in bivouac 1345. "B" Company took up early positions at Grange L'Evengne, Villeloup, and Dierry St Pierre.

28 August 1944:

Battalion (-) left bivouac area 1530, marched East crossing Seine River at Troyes and reached new area 2 miles East of Creney-pres-Troyes at 1800. Distance travelled 15 miles.

29 - 30 August 1944:

Battalion in bivouac area. Reconnaissance Company on patrol of area. One platoon of "B" Company in security position at Feuges. Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered routes to an gun positions in area of Tesches.

31 August 1944:

Battalion (-) left bivouac 1200, marched 55 miles to new bivouac area 1/2 mile South of Guindrecourt-aux-Ormes. Closed in bivouac 2030. The march was held up by the blowing up of bridges across the Marne.

For the Battalion Commander:

William L. Kline
WILLIAM L. KLINE,
2nd Lt. FA (TD)
Adjutant.

1 Incl:
Incl # 1 - Certificate

HEADQUARTERS, 704TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AFD 403, U. S. Army
14 March 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

" I certify that the Unit Journal of this organization, 704th Tank Destroyer battalion, for the months of July and August 1944, were destroyed due to enemy action."

William L. Kline

WILLIAM L. KLINE
2nd Lt., FA (TD)
Adjutant.

INCL #1