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HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 484

27 Ulas 46 ----- HSP
Date Initials

3 August 1944

SUBJECT: Operations 1 July 1944 to 31 July 1944

1 July 1944 - Company "A", 1 platoon at 705078, 2 platoons at 675105, Company "B" CP at 462171, Company "C", Reconnaissance Company and Battalion CP in assembly area at 269197, prepared to support 34th Infantry Division. Rear Echelon at 225037. Company "A" under control of 81st Reconnaissance. Company "B" under control of 9CB 1st Armored Division. As of 2030 hours, 1 July, Company "A" expended 160 rounds HE at Mark VI. Effect of rounds at Mark VI unknown, hits made on buildings in same vicinity.

2 July 1944 - Company "A" no report. Company "C" CP vicinity 209209, 1 platoon vicinity 209233, 2 platoons vicinity 191231. Battalion CP vicinity 213210, closing at 1800 hours. Reconnaissance Company no change. Rear Echelon at Casale, Company "B" vicinity 351265, Battalion (-2 Companies) attached to 34th Infantry Division as of 1200 hours 1 July. Company "C" continuing to support attack of 442 Infantry. Reconnaissance Company maintaining road block on right flank of Division sector.

3 July 1944 - Battalion CP vicinity 242230 closing at 1800 hours. Reconnaissance Company relieving 34th Reconnaissance troop in its sector (with one platoon Company "A" 804th TD Battalion attached) with mission of protecting Division right flank. One platoon Company "C" enroute to support Reconnaissance Company, 1 platoon enroute to support 168th Infantry, 1 platoon Company "C" in reserve prepared to support 363 Infantry. Reconnaissance Company advancing on 168th Infantry right flank to approximately 8028. Company "A" (attached to 81st Reconnaissance Squadron) advancing in very rough terrain,

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1 platoon expended 41 rounds HE at vehicles and personnel-good results. Targets in vicinity 680165. One platoon at 645178, 1 platoon at 653163, 1 platoon at 672114 in reserve. Company "B" 1 platoon attached to "C" troop, 91st Reconnaissance and meeting very little opposition, object is Montecatini. One platoon attached to 1st Battalion, 13th AR attacked last night to take road junction 417243 - result unsuccessful. Last reports indicate they are advancing. They have been firing at enemy personnel and houses, knocking out one enemy vehicle. One platoon attached to 3rd Battalion 13th AR now working with Reconnaissance elements of that organization - expended 61 rounds HE at enemy personnel and houses suspected to be occupied. Expended two rounds at Mark VI but tank disappeared.

4 July 1944 - Battalion CP at 242250, Company "A" CP at Ceteraiano (677105), 1 platoon at 635186, 1 platoon at 655173, 1 platoon at 645193, Company "B" CP at 396216, Company "C" CP at 270220, Reconnaissance CP 297287, Rear Echelon moved to 295225, closing at 1500 hours. One platoon Company "B" attached "C" troop 91st Reconnaissance. Company "A" ordered to hold in present positions and CP will move to vicinity 659173. Company "B" - 1st platoon advanced toward Montecatini, Italy, demolished pill box enroute to present position, encountered mines and demolitions on roads. Second platoon knocked out one A/T gun and one Mark VI in early afternoon - expending 120 APG & 50 HE, received much enemy artillery fire and some direct fire. 3rd platoon no change. Late report from "B" Company - 3 July - 1st platoon received tank fire enroute to present position at 3618 (still attached to 91st Reconnaissance). Second platoon no activity as of 1700 hours. Third platoon has two guns in road block position 427237. Have no contact with other two guns. Company "C"

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one platoon working with 168th Infantry in vicinity 230274; one platoon working with Reconnaissance Company in its sector on Division right flank; one platoon in reserve. Reconnaissance Company advance elements at 297287 continuing forward. Company "B", 2nd platoon, assisted in knocking out 2 Mark VI's, platoon in support of Company "C" 1st Battalion 13 AK. One M-5 (light tank) Reconnaissance Company knocked out by enemy fire vicinity South of Miemo, Italy.

5 July 1944 - Battalion CP vicinity (Casaglia 297235) closing at 1800 hours. Reconnaissance CP at 297275, closing at 1830 hours. Company "B" very active and preparing to repulse counterattack CCB is expecting from enemy 90th Light Infantry and 26th Panzer Division. Reconnaissance Company 1st and 2nd platoons received heavy fire from town of Miemo, Italy. Second and 3rd platoons supported Engineers at blown bridge 3000 yards SW of Miemo, Italy, then proceeded up trail to North at 1830 hours. Encountered enemy tank which withdrew 2500 yards SW of Miemo, Italy, also received enemy artillery fire. CO Reconnaissance Company with TD's, Tanks and Infantry worked NW against enemy infantry - requested artillery support. Reconnaissance CP vicinity of Casaglia, Italy. Reconnaissance Company held up against strong enemy resistance, situation still same. Company "C" - 1 platoon continuing to support 168th Infantry, 2 platoons supporting Reconnaissance Company.

6 July 1944 - Reconnaissance Company CP vicinity 301252 closing at 2230 hours. Company "B" detached from 1st Armored Division and reverts to Battalion control, effective 1100 hours 5 July. One platoon Company "C" attached to 168th Infantry vicinity 240305 (Castellina) as of 1500 hours (continuing advance to North). Company "A" continuing support of 81st Reconnaissance. Reconnaissance Company CP at 301259 adjusted artillery on enemy Infantry and gun positions

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throughout day of July 5. CP also received intermittent artillery and mortar fire from enemy. Infantry support withdrew leaving Reconnaissance units to hold position in vicinity 278294. Reconnaissance units were later instructed to withdraw to 283269 after losing one M-5 (light tank) and one other damaged. Enemy forces kept Reconnaissance units from returning to position at 298289 gained on July 4 due to heavy resistance.

7 July 1944 - Company "A" CP at 598224, one platoon at 598271 moving north, one platoon at 598280, one platoon at 565247.

8 July 1944 - One platoon Company "C" with 168th Infantry, captured 12 prisoners at 228293 and assisted in capturing 40 more at 232309 (Castellina). 168th Infantry credits this platoon with a Mark VI tank destroyed at 221314. Two platoons Company "A" at 568284, one platoon at 561241, "A" Company CP at Musciano - continuing active support of 81st Reconnaissance. Company "B" has 1 platoon working with Reconnaissance Company. Reconnaissance Company continuing mission on Division right flank meeting determined resistance and have received orders to establish road block at 300300.

9 July 1944 - Company "C" 1 platoon supporting advance of 34th Reconnaissance Troop. Company "A" continuing active support of 81st Reconnaissance. Company "C" supporting 168th Infantry advancing to 22813/(1 platoon) and fired at what seemed to be camouflaged tanks north of Pgio Casale. No known results of firing. Reconnaissance Company had advanced in its sector occupying Miano, Italy, at 1330 hours and continuing advance to the north - encountering demolitions and mines. One M-5 (light tank) Reconnaissance Company hit a mine at 298287 completely destroyed.

10 July 1944 - Battalion CP at 242278, closing at 1645 hours. Company "B" CP at 229299, 6 guns at 229299, 2 guns at 255318, 1 platoon at Miano.

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Company "C" CP at 227283, one platoon at 225313, one platoon at 228313. Reconnaissance Company in general vicinity at 116284. Company "A" continuing to support 81st Reconnaissance. One platoon Company "B" vicinity of Miemo, Italy, protecting Division right flank. Reconnaissance Company relieved in its sector on right flank of Division to support 804 TD Battalion in control sector. One platoon Company "C" overlooking town of Casale engaged four (4) targets during day, all tanks. Tanks were observed pulling into position but two disappeared before the platoon could fire on them. Company "C" expended 81 rounds H E and 5 rounds AP during days firing. One enemy tank destroyed and one damaged by "C" Company - both believed to be Mark IV's.

11 July 1944 - Battalion CP closed in assembly area vicinity 295225 at 1830 hours. Company "A" CP at 557280, one platoon at 540323, one platoon at 495273, one platoon at 538273. Company "C" enroute to assembly area at 295225. Reconnaissance Company closed in assembly area at 295225 at 1730 hours. Battalion is attached to 91st Infantry Division (- Company "A"), Company "C" attached to "D" Company 2nd Battalion 1st AB. Company "B" in direct support of 365th Infantry. Reconnaissance Company relieved from support of 804th TD. In reconnaissance of enemy positions at 1700 hours 10 July, a 77 MM A/T gun that was brought under fire 9 July by 3rd Platoon Company "C" was found damaged.

12 July 1944 - Company "A" continuing to support 81st Reconnaissance Sq. One platoon Company "B" supporting "D" Company, 2nd Bn, 1st A. R. at 308322. 3rd Platoon Company "A" expended 80 rounds HE at enemy personnel in vicinity 565345 and 551363. Excellent results reported on enemy personnel. Company "A" working in heavily mined area.

13 July 1944 - Company "A" continuing support of 81st Reconnaissance, Company "B" continuing support of 365th Infantry.

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14 July 1944 - Battalion CP at 335378, closing at 1400 hours. Company "A" continuing support of 81st Reconnaissance, Company "B" attached to 361st Infantry for direct support, Company "C" 1 platoon attached to 362 Infantry and 2 platoons attached to 2nd Battalion 1st Armored Regiment for direct support.

15 July 44
Company "A" continuing support of 81st Reconnaissance and moved to present location with assistance of 1 Company of tanks. No serious resistance met, but extensive minefields delayed progress. Company "B" continuing support of 361st Infantry. Company "C" continuing support of 362 Infantry and 2nd Battalion 1st Armored Regiment.

16 July 1944 - Company "A" CP at 518384, 1 platoon at 529395, 1 platoon at 496414, 1 platoon at 315436. Company "C" moving to new position. Battalion CP at 310435, closing at 0900 hours.

17 July 1944 - "A" Company continuing to support 81st Reconnaissance Squad. Road blocks, mine fields and intense artillery fire continue to slow advance of Company "A". Company "B" continuing to support 361 Infantry and overran one enemy 75 MM A/T AT at 277513 and destroyed a Mark VI tank at 277516 at 0900 hours. Company "C" continuing to support 362 Infantry and the platoon at 308496 destroyed one Mark IV tank at 308509 at 1600 hours - direct fire. At approximately 1730 hours Company "B" lost two M-10's by hostile artillery in vicinity of 275509, 1 M-10 damaged by land mine in same vicinity.

18 July 1944 - Reconnaissance Company moved to vicinity 310438 closing at 1400 hours. Company "A" continuing to support 81st Reconnaissance and 2nd platoon. Company "A" moving with Company "B" 81st Recon. in attack on hill and road junction at 318426. Company "B" continuing to support 361st Infantry and advancing from vicinity of Ponsacco at 0700 hours overran three Mark IV tanks in vic-

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284545, tanks were found in excellent condition and undamaged. Three PW captured in same vicinity.

19 July 1944 - Battalion (- Company "A") now assembled in vicinity of Capannoli (310494) in Division Reserve. Battalion CP at 310494.

20 July 1944 - No change.

21 July 1944 - Company "B" attached to 916 F. A. for indirect fire missions guns at 278524. Battery of 6 guns Company "C" attached to 346 F. A. for indirect fire missions guns at 301501. Batteries expended 252 rounds HE and 12 rounds smoke at concentrations North of Arno River.

22 July 1944 - Six guns Company "B" and 6 guns Company "C" are to travel (loop) as follows: Capannoli, Fonsacco, road junction 277483 commencing at 2500 hours. Batteries attached to F. A. Battalions expended 351 rounds HE and 10 rounds smoke.

23 July 1944 - Company "A" relieved of assignment with 81st Reconnaissance 1 Section TD's Company "A" covering road junction at 519508, 1 section at 500528. Six gun battery Company "C" attached to 346th Field Artillery expended 66 rounds HE indirect fire.

24 July 1944 - Battalion detached IV Corps and attached to II Corps as of July 25.

25 July 1944 - No change.

26 July 1944 - Company "A" now attached to 350th Infantry for support. Company "B" and "C" continuing to support 916th F. A., 346th F. A. Company "C" six gun battery destroyed one enemy S/P gun and damaged two with indirect fire expending 474 rounds HE. Enemy guns located in general vicinity 8430-611R, time 1730 hours.

27 July 1944 - Six gun battery Company "B" expended 1019 rounds HE and

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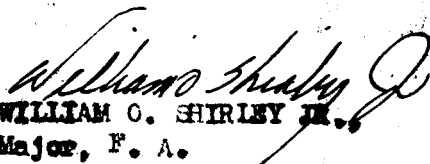
18 rounds smoke in support of artillery.

28 July 1944 - Company "B" one gun at Pontedera, remainder of Company no change. One gun Company "B" in direct support of 361 Infantry at Pontedera to be used for knocking out enemy MG positions by direct fire. July 27-28 six gun battery Company "B" fired on fourteen targets observed by Infantry on enemy personnel and gun positions with very good effect reported.

29 July 1944 - Battalion (- Company "A") closed in assembly area at 507397 at 0030 hours. Battalion (-Company "A") released from operational control IV corps, detached 91st Infantry Division and attached to 85th Infantry Division effective 2330 B 28 July. Company "A" detached 88th Division (362) and reverts to Battalion control effective same date and hour. Company "A" continued mission of direct support of 362 Infantry until receiving notice of relief. Battalion in Division Reserve. Harassing missions fired throughout the night 28 July by both batteries - good effects on enemy personnel, hit an ammunition dump which burned for 12 hours. One S/P gun probably knocked out in vicinity 54506112

30 July 1944 - Battalion closed in assembly area at 556353 NE of Volterra, Italy at 1615 hours.

31 July 1944 - No change.


WILLIAM C. SHIRLEY JR.
Major, F. A.
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Month of July 1944

CASUALTY REPORT

BATTLE CASUALTIES

1 JULY 1944

Pvt Herman J. Vonderhaar 39088239 LWA

3 JULY 1944

✓ Pvt Dale H. Ellingson 37170067 MIA

4 JULY 1944

Sgt Vincent F. Peters 39602372 LWA

5 July 1944

1st Lt. Robert H. Young 0885770 SWA
Tec 5 Willard G. Folven 37169989 SWA
Tec 5 Harold E. McCarthy 39386346 SWA

10 July 1944

✓ 1st Lt. Sheldon L. Thompson 0435944 MIA

12 July 1944

Sgt Louis M. Lucassie 39231795 LWA

17 July 1944

Tec 5 Harold W. Peihl 37170007 LWA

24 July 1944

Sgt Dyle Smith 20927370 LWA

29 July 1944

Sgt Elmer I. Sarkilahti 37170050 SWA

Annex "B" Inclosure Number 2

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