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**HEADQUARTERS 770TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 484**

31 May 1944

SUBJECT: Operations 1 May 1944 to 31 May 1944

- 1 May 1944 -- No operations.
- 2 May 1944 -- No operations
- 3 May 1944 -- No operations.
- 4 May 1944 -- No operations.
- 5 May 1944 -- No operations.
- 6 May 1944 -- No operations.
- 7 May 1944 -- No operations.
- 8 May 1944 -- No operations.

**DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED**

BY AUTHORITY OF TAG. C. W. B.

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| <u>21 Feb 46</u> | <u>HSO</u> |
| Date | Initials |

9 May 1944 -- Six (6) gun Company "A" moved from vicinity 79000 (vicinity Spumino, Italy) at 2200 hours to cover positions vicinity 79000 (vicinity Mignano, Italy) closing at 0400 hours.

10 May 1944 -- No operations.

11 May 1944 -- CP Reconnaissance of 79000, Company "A" at 79100, Company "B" at 82000, Company "C" at 82000, Reconnaissance Company at 90000, Headquarters Company at 90000, Battalion Control Post at 90000. Remainder of Battalion moved into these positions as of above, closing at 0100 hours.

12 May 1944 -- Two guns, Company "A", at 79000, two guns, Company "A", at 77000. Four (4) guns, Company "A" in anti-tank positions as of above, firing direct, expended 400 rounds High Explosive, 4 rounds AP, on buildings and road junctions along Highway 9 and in Sauri, Italy. Also fired 9 rounds smoke on Mount Sauri, Italy. Company "B" and Company "C" expended 400 rounds High Explosive on concentrations allotted to Italian firing indirect unobserved fires. (Results of days operation - Buildings destroyed by "A" Company in Sauri, Italy.)

13 May 1944 -- Six (6) gun Company "C" along ridge 77000, six (6) gun Company "C" along ridge 77000 in anti-tank positions closing at 0100 hours. Prior to movement Company "C" expended 400 rounds High Explosive and 8 smoke interdiction fire along Highway 9. Company "B" expended 1000 rounds High Explosive interdiction fire on Highway 9, West of Mount Sauri, Italy, rate of 10 to 6 rounds per hour per gun. Company "A" expended 100 rounds High

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Explosive direct fire from anti-tank positions at buildings and road junctions vicinity Securi, Italy, and Mount Securi, Italy. (Results of days operations: Direct hits were made on Highway 7 with interdiction fire, buildings destroyed in Securi, Italy, by direct fire. Company "C" knocked out three pill boxes on hill 108 vicinity Castellamarate, Italy at 1230 hours for 838th Infantry.

14 May 1944 -- Reconnaissance Company at 870878. Four (4) guns Company "A" in anti-tank positions fired 275 rounds High Explosive and 15 rounds Armor Piercing direct fire at road junctions and buildings in vicinity of Securi, Italy, and Mount Securi, Italy. Company "B" expended 450 rounds High Explosive at rate of fire 4 rounds per gun per hour interdiction fire on Highway 7, west of Mount Securi, Italy from 1900 hours to 0700 hours, expended 28 rounds at Castellamarate, Italy at 1215 hours against enemy CP's, expended 714 rounds High Explosive firing at rate of 4 rounds per gun per hour at concentrations vicinity Mount Securi, Italy and Highway 7 at 0700 hours, expended 11 rounds High Explosive at an enemy gun position (747845) observed by "A" Company CP and resumed interdiction Highway 7 and west of Mount Securi, Italy. Company "C" expended 25 rounds High Explosive from anti-tank positions in support of 837th Infantry. (Results of days operations: Neutralized enemy gun.)

15 May 1944 -- Two (2) platoons Reconnaissance Company guarding beach between D'Argento hill and Garigliano River, Italy, Company "B" closed at 0800 hours vicinity 770288. Company "C" attached to 837th Infantry. Company "C" expended 200 rounds High Explosive on targets in support of 837th Infantry. Company "B" expended 28 rounds High Explosive on concentrations along Highway 7, west of Mount Securi, Italy, from 1800-2000 hours; registered on Base Point 707886 by Air CP at 0900 hours expending 84 rounds High Explosive and 8 rounds smoke; commencing at 1100 hours harassed Castellamarate, Italy for one hour, expending 45 rounds High Explosive; beginning at 1500 hours expended 100 rounds High Explosive at rate of 8 rounds per gun per hour on Mount Securi, Italy. Two guns Company "A" moved to 760947 at 0800 and expended 200 rounds High Explosive on pill boxes at reverse slope and South slope of hill 88, guns then returned to former position at 770941; Company "A" expended 150 rounds High Explosive direct and indirect fire (4 guns in anti-tank positions) at Mount Securi, Italy, and Highway 7. (Results of days operations: Company "B" destroyed bridge on Highway 7 observed by Air CP. Two guns, Company "A", liquidated pill boxes on hill 88, killing a number of the enemy and destroyed an enemy truck in vicinity of Securi, Italy.)

16 May 1944 -- Company "A" assembling along Highway 7 vicinity of Securi, Italy at 1245 hours ready to move forward. Company "B" at 730667, Company "C" at 781977, Rear Echelon at 843078, Battalion C.P. at 730951. Company "B" attached to 838th Infantry for support. Company "C" attached to 837th Infantry for support. Company "B" harassed Highway 7, west of Mount Securi, Italy, at rate of 5 rounds per gun per hour commencing at 2100 hours and ending at 0500 hours, expending 420 rounds High Explosive. Four (4) guns, Company "C" in vicinity hill 108 at 1400 hours supporting tanks and Infantry prior to movement forward as mentioned above. Battalion CP moved to new area closing at 1215 hours. Rear Echelon moved to new area closing at 1000 hours.

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17 May 1944 -- Four (4) guns Company "A" at 722945 (Mount Scauri, Italy) and seven (7) guns at 722948 (Mount Scauri, Italy). Four guns Company "B" at 721948 (Southwest of Castellamerata, Italy), 8 guns at 742948 (South of Castellamerata, Italy). Company "C" at 622930 (Maranola, Italy). Battalion CP at 722930. Company "B" and Company "C" continuing support of Infantry. Company "A" in Battalion Reserve. One (1) 4 x 4 Jeep, Company "A" destroyed by enemy shell fire (vicinity 722948).

18 May 1944 -- Company "A", one platoon vicinity 722948, one platoon vicinity 621941, one platoon vicinity 622954. Company "B" vicinity 712967, Company "C" vicinity 702972, Reconnaissance Company - gas platoon reconnoitered as far as Fondia, Italy are now at vicinity 702954. Headquarters Company closed at 1500 hours vicinity 702951. "A" Company expended 129 rounds High Explosive at buildings in Gasta, Italy and Fondia, Italy in supporting fires for Infantry.

19 May 1944 -- Battalion CP vicinity 622957, closing at 1500 hours, Company "A", 8 guns at Itri, 4 guns vicinity 642922. One (1) platoon Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered as far as Itri, Italy, at 1100 hours, Reconnaissance Company now in vicinity of Scauri, Italy, on beach patrol as of 1500 hours, Company "B" to move through with 55th Infantry Division task force toward Fondia, Italy.

20 May 1944 -- Company "B" vicinity Fondia, Italy. Rear Echelon vicinity 622926, Battalion CP vicinity 647927, remainder of Battalion, no change. Company "B" continuing active support of task force.

21 May 1944 -- Eight (8) guns Company "B" at 422927, 4 guns vicinity 470042, Battalion CP closed at new location 520040 (0412Z) hours. Company "B" expended 20 rounds High Explosive direct fire in support of task force.

22 May 1944 -- Company "B" continuing support of task force and located at 422926, Company "C" moved to new location (521020), closing at 1700 hours.

23 May 1944 -- Reconnaissance Company on the move to Sperlonga, Italy, to guard coast. Rear Echelon at 522020, closing at 1600 hours, Company "B" expended 25 rounds High Explosive and 16 rounds APC; two (2) guns firing direct fire at railroad tunnel, Southwest of Fondia, Italy, and buildings in vicinity of tunnel. Direct hits were scored inside the tunnel and buildings surrounding it. Civilian reported 25 dead (Germans) inside tunnel evidently due to the firing by "B" Company.

24 May 1944 -- Company "A" vicinity 421022, Reconnaissance Company vicinity 612004, Battalion CP 422042, remainder of Battalion, no change. Company "B" expended 69 rounds High Explosive, 15 rounds APC direct fire at targets vicinity of railroad tunnel.

25 May 1944 -- Company "A" vicinity 322015, closing at 0800 hours. Company "B" moving to vicinity 520020 as of 1800 hours. Company "C" moving to vicinity 302115 as of 1800 hours. Reconnaissance Company CP vicinity 522955, closing at 1920 hours.

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26 May 1944 -- Company "A" in direct support of 80th Tank Battalion supporting attack of Division. Four (4) guns at 280199 (near Priverno, Italy). Eight (8) guns at 282187. Company "B" protecting Division CP at 287150. Company "C" supporting attack of Division at 287148. Rear Echelon closed in new area at 288015 at 1800 hours. Battalion CP closed in new area at 286141 at 1800 hours.

27 May 1944 -- Company "A" vicinity 281188, Company "B" vicinity 280148, Company "C" CP vicinity 281204, 4 guns at 282807. Company (Reconnaissance) at 282807, closing at 1700 hours. Rear Echelon vicinity 288015, Battalion CP vicinity 286141. Company "A" expended 50 rounds High Explosive at a Mark VI Tank and Self-propelled gun vicinity of 288888 -- Destroying the Self-propelled gun.

28 May 1944 -- Battalion now attached to IV Corps and relieved from assignment with 80th Infantry Division as of 1800 hours 27 May 1944. Battalion is now in assembly area with exception of Reconnaissance Company which is still on coast patrol. Battalion is located Northwest of Soano, Italy. "A" and "C" Company are at 286141, Company "B" at 280148, Reconnaissance Company at 282807, Rear Echelon and Battalion CP at 288148.

29 May 1944 -- Battalion attached to II Corps as of 1800 hours 28 May, 1944.

30 May 1944 -- Reconnaissance Company vicinity 288148, closing at 1400 hours. Reconnaissance Company reverted to Battalion Control as of 1100 hours 30 May. Battalion attached to 80th Division Artillery.

31 May 1944 -- Battalion CP vicinity of Cori, Italy. Company "A", Company "B", Company "C", same position. Reconnaissance Company (near Cori, Italy) closing at 0800 hours. Company "A", Company "B", Company "C" moved forward to positions near Lariano, Italy, in direct support of Infantry and anti-tank positions. Battalion CP at 088867 near Guilianotte, Italy.

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

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HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Month of May 1944

CASUALTY REPORT

BATTLE CASUALTIES

12 May 1944

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| Tec 5 Orval F. Parkhurst | 17051867 | SWA |
| | | Entry corrected on 15 May 1944 fr SWA to LWA |

16 May 1944

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|-----|
| ✓ 1st Sgt Russell L. Braden | 37022513 | LWA |
| ✓ 1st Lt Clement P. Kujawski | 01030490 | LWA |
| ✓ 2nd Lt Adler H. Bratland | 01683434 | LWA |
| 1st Sgt Rodney M. Brunton | 20745747 | SWA |

18 May 1944

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|------------------------|----------|-----|
| Sgt Harold P. Mooney | 37170069 | KIA |
| Sgt Andrew C. Andersen | 39601723 | LWA |
| Tec 5 Irvin C. Devitt | 20745811 | LWA |
| Pvt Andrew J. Bartha | 35455190 | LWA |
| Tec 5 Dan R. Laurila | 37022369 | LWA |
| Cpl Ralph O. Mikkelsen | 37169856 | LWA |
| Tec 5 Rudolph Bakken | 37081746 | LWA |

19 May 1944

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| ✓ Cpl Henry G. Popp <i>Recor</i> | 37041123 | KIA |
| ✓ Sgt Ernest E. Parris " | 37022381 | SWA |
| ✓ S/Sgt Henry A. Wiese " | 39022381 | LWA |
| Tec 4 Joseph H. Lauchard | 35407770 | LWA |

20 May 1944

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| ✓ Sgt Ernest E. Parris | 37022381 | DOW |
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24 May 1944

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| Pvt Lester E. Roche | 37164519 | LWA |
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31 May 1944

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| 1st Lt Edward W. Ira | 01824189 | LWA |
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Annex "B" Inclosure #2

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