

Deep

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HEADQUARTERS
8030 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

SUBJECT: After Battle Report.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through Channels)

UNIT REPORT

No. 2

From: 010001
To : 312400

Unit: 803rd T. D. Bn.
Date: 1 August, 1944
Place: Vic. Vire, France

1. SUMMARY.

a. Show Units in Contact.

1 to 8 July -

7th Army Units, of LXXXIV Corps:

- (1) Elements of 266th Infantry Division.
- (2) 265th Infantry Division - 894th - 895th - 896th Infantry Regiments plus AF Battalion and Engineer Battalion.
- (3) 91st Division - 1037th and 1038th Infantry Regiments.
- (4) 77th Division - 1048th - 1049th - 1050th Infantry Regiments.

Battalion - 721st Infantry Regiment.

8 July to 17 July -

The above units, part of which were merely remnants, plus:

- (1) Elements of 2 battalions, Der Fuehrer Regiment 2nd Line Reich SS.
- (2) Elements of 9th - 10th and 11th companies of Dutchland Regiment and Line Reich SS.
- (3) At this time remnants of several badly mauled outfits were broken with replacements, and then appeared "Kampfgruppe Holmer" and Feldersatz Battalion 353.
- (4) On July 12, 15 Para Regt, of the 5th Para Div was identified.

18 July to 31 July -

- (1) 77th Infantry Division.
- (2) 266th Infantry Division - 897th - 898th - 899th Infantry Regiments.
- (3) 343rd Engineer Battalion (Division was not identified as being in this district).
- (4) 352nd Infantry Division - 914th - 915th - 916th Infantry Regiments.

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(5) 8th Para Regt of the 3rd Para Division - Formerly on British front.

(6) Elements of 130th Para Division
(7) 14th Para Regiment.

h. Early in month, on VIII Corps front, 277 Infantry Division was available but no positive evidence of commitment was revealed. The 353rd Infantry Division appeared early in month, but was later committed. It is believed the Infantry elements of 2nd and 3rd SS, have been held in close reserve for a long period. During the period, frequent reports of movements to this area were received. The 9th and 11th Para Divisions were reported moving from the south, but did not appear.

a. Brief description of enemy activity during period covered by Report:

Enemy activity consisting of stubborn delaying tactics, using hedgerows and accidents of terrain to excellent advantage. On VIII Corps front, tanks were rare, but the Germans had many self-propelled artillery mounts that he used in close support of infantry. On XII Corps, some Mark IV and Mark V tanks were available and were used in small groups in close infantry support. Frequent local counter-attacks were made, by infantry, employing 2 to 7 tanks, (Mk IV's or Mk V's) apparently for delaying purposes. It is noted that the enemy puts up the bitterest struggle, just before, or during a general withdrawal.

a. Brief estimate of enemy strength, material means, morale, and his probable knowledge of our situation:

From all reports, enemy is below T/O and T/S strength. Equipment is good, but is lacking in ammunition, gasoline, and motor transport. It has been noted that many tested units are motivated by losses. Morale in SS units, and Para Divisions just committed seem high, but in Infantry regiments, which have a high percentage of foreign troops, morale is low.

Conclusions covering plans open to the enemy which can affect our mission, including the effect of time, space, terrain, present known dispositions, and other factors, on each such plan, and the earliest estimated time at which the enemy can put each into effect:

Most probable plan open to enemy is to withdraw his left flank as slowly as we will permit and establish an advantageous defense line, deep in France. This gives him the advantage of being close to his strategic reserve, (the Pas de Calais Area) without weakening his north coastal defense. On the other hand, he can draw on his coastal reserves, use his armor, and make a desperate attempt to eliminate our beachhead. This is unlikely, as it would uncover his beaches for more allied landings.

2. OUR SITUATION.

a. Show Our Front Line or Most Advanced Elements:

Front line at end of period generally along Line - Dorcy

(410412) - Tacey (515472).

h. This unit during period 1 July to 31 July was attached to the following units: 82nd A/B Division, 9th Infantry Division, 2nd T. B. Group, 29th Infantry Division, 26th Infantry Division.

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The battalion was employed mainly as very close support for Infantry being called on for reduction of OP's, Machine Gun nest and S/P mounds which were holding up the Infantry advance. Most Infantry Commanders were prone to try to employ the destroyers as tanks which has proven fatal on all occasions. The reserve company of the Battalion was generally employed on indirect fire missions of interdiction and harassing nature.

g. Combat efficiency is considered excellent. The unit has suffered ten (10) percent casualties, but in all cases have been able to replace key men so as not to cause a drop in efficiency.

g. All objectives of units have been gained. The entire front steadily pushed forward during entire month. This unit in its operations destroyed the following:

Observation Posts -- 3 destroyed.
Machine Guns -- 9 destroyed - 5 probable.
Machine Gun Nests -- 3 destroyed and 1 probable.
Mark V tank -- 1 destroyed.
Mark IV tank -- 1 destroyed.
Self-propelled -- 2 destroyed and 1 probable.
Anti-tank gun -- 2 destroyed.
Vehicles -- 2 destroyed.
Mortar -- 1 destroyed and 2 probable.
Personnel killed -- 110 approximately.
Prisoners of War -- 53.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE.

a. Concise statement concerning status of strength of command and replacements needed:

No replacements needed. Short four (4) basics due to man being in the hospital. Our present intention is to requisition these men as they are released from hospital to fill vacancies.


b. Casualties:

- (1) Killed -- 1 Officer and 7 enlisted men.
- (2) Sick and PW -- 1 Officer and 23 enlisted men.
- (3) Wounded -- 38 enlisted men.
- (4) Missing -- 1 Officer and 7 enlisted men.

The strength of unit as of 31 July, 1944 was 40 officers, 1 warrant officer and 605 enlisted men.

c. Supply during period covered excellent. Status of supplies on hand this date:

- (1) Rations - Two (2) days reserve.
- (2) Ammunition - 3 inch - 2 Units of Fire.
75mm - 2 Units of Fire.
- (3) Gasoline - One (1) days supply at fifty (50) miles per day.
(excluding vehicular tanks).
- (4) Diesel Fuel (excluding vehicular tanks) - One-half (1/2) days supply at fifty miles per day.


CHARLES S. JOHNSON,
Lt. Col., 803rd T. A. Bn.,
Commanding.

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