

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 635TH TD BATTALION TOWED
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

5-345

4 August 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

THROUGH: Commanding General, 1st U. S. Infantry Division, APO #1, U. S. Army.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.



1. Pursuant to instructions contained in letter, file 319.1/401 (C), Headquarters First U. S. Army, subject as indicated above, dated 13 July 1944, and paragraph 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following report and copy of Unit Journal is submitted for the month of July 1944.

2. The firing companies, "A", "B", and "C", have been attached to the 16th, 18th and 26th Infantry Regiments of the 1st U. S. Infantry Division respectively, and have been under the control of the Regimental Anti-Tank Officers. In general, they have been used to reinforce the organic regimental anti-tank defense. Due to the nature of the operations, and the disorganization of enemy tank units, our firing companies have not fired at enemy tanks.

a. During the month the number of battle casualties suffered by this battalion are 3 enlisted men killed, 6 enlisted men wounded and evacuated, and 4 enlisted men wounded and not evacuated.

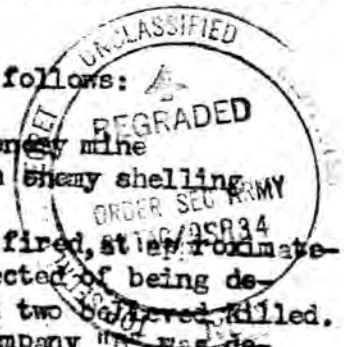
b. The battalion captured, independently of assistance, 3 prisoners. By assisting in combing new positions, we were responsible for the infantry capturing many more.

c. We have positive proof of killing 1 of the enemy and believe we have killed many more.

d. The vehicular casualties of this battalion are as follows:

- 1 - 1/4 ton vehicle lost by running over enemy mine
- 1 - 1/4 ton vehicle destroyed by fire from enemy shelling

e. Incidents: On 2nd July a Company "B" gun section fired, at approximately 2,500 yards, 17 rounds HE on a bogged down German tank suspected of being developed as an enemy strong point. Six enemy were scattered and two were killed. On 14th July the barn utilized as a CP by the 2nd Platoon of Company "B" was demolished by enemy shelling. On 15th July we lost a 3" gun in Company "B" as a result of a hit by an enemy rocket. On 16th July we received advice that this



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Report, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 4 Aug. 1944, cont'd.

battalion was relieved from attachment to V Corps and attached to 1st U. S. Infantry Division effective upon relief by the 818th TD Battalion; also that the 1st U. S. Infantry Division passed to control of the VII Corps with this battalion to be attached at a later date. On 20th July Battery "B" of the 129th AAA (90mm) Battalion, consisting of 4 officers and 118 enlisted men and 4 90mm guns were attached to this Battalion. One platoon consisting of 1 officer and 41 enlisted men and 2 90mm guns were attached to our Company "A"; and 1 platoon, same complement, attached to our Company "B", the remaining 2 officers and 36 enlisted men to our Headquarters and Headquarters Company. On 29th July the 129th AAA platoon attached to our Company "B" was credited with destroying an enemy plane. On 30th July Battery "B", 129th AAA (90mm) Battalion was relieved of attachment to this Battalion.

f. Our Reconnaissance Platoons were used for forward reconnaissance by 1st Division Artillery.

WINT SMITH
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding



1 Incl.
Copy of Unit Journal

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HEADQUARTERS 635TH TD BATTALION TOWNED
APO 230, US Army

Excerpts From Unit Journal

- | <u>Date</u> | <u>Incidents</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 1944 | |
| 2 July | Company B reported Germans noted around stranded enemy tank this morning. 6 enemy personnel were moving around tank either repairing or camouflaging. After watching position for 1½ hours, on order, Sgt Beard's gun fired 17 rounds NE as directed, range approximately 2500 yards. Hit top of turret and enemy scattered. Two believed killed. |
| 7 July | S/Sgt McClellan (Co C) suffered small fragment wound, nose, DUTY. |
| 8 July | Co B reported at 1900 hours mortar shell severely wounded Sgt Boock, shell fragments multiple legs and shoulders; also Pvt Walter M Henry, shell fragments right arm and leg. |
| 10 July | Pvt Gordon Van Leeuwen (Co C) SWA, in neck by rifle bullet - evac. |
| 13 July | Pfc Kenneth Millar (Co C) LWA, arm, duty. |
| 14 July | 2nd Flat, Co B, CP barn demolished by enemy shelling.

1/4 ton (Med) with Pvt Zieder driving, returning to Co C from rear echelon, hit by overhead burst, first hitting telephone pole. Pfc Sneek and Pvt Kramer (both of Co C) KIA, Pvt Smelcer (Co C) SWA and Pvt Zieder (Med) SWA - all evac. 1/4 ton burned beyond repair and was replaced. |
| 15 July | Sgt Stubb's (Co B) 3" gun knocked out by enemy rocket - gun replaced. |
| 16 July | Received SECRET letter Reg CE-2758 14 July, FUSA "Troop Assignment" 79, 635th TD Bn relieved from attachment to V Corps and attached to 1st US Inf Div effective upon relief by 818th TD Bn and SECRET letter "Ops Memo 38 15 July 44 Hq VII Corps" 1st Inf div passes to control VII Corps 1524008 July - 635th TD Bn will be attached to 1st Inf Div at later date. |
| 17 July | 0740 moved from CP coord 698638 (Caumont area) to 0915 established new CP in Division Assembly area coord 600812. |
| 18 July | Personnel Section, less T/Sgt Howatt, moved from Division Assembly area to Danger Base (AG Section) at Tour en Bessen. |
| 19 July | Left 2230 for (arrived 0008 20 July) new area coord 429754 le Manil-Angot. |
| 20 July | Rec'd from V Corps Troop Assignment letter 14 July releasing 1st Inf Div from V Corps with this Battalion attached. |

Per VCOG 1st Inf Div, 4 officers and 118 EM, and 4 90 mm guns of Btry B, 129th AAA Bn attached to this Bn. Attached 1 officer and 41 EM and 2 guns to Co A and Co B each, remaining 2 officers and 36 EM to Co C

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Excerpts from Unit Journal, 635th TD Bn, July 1944, cont'd.

28 July MB with S/Sgt Lewis and 2 men assigned to Division Artillery per request by Gen Andrus for forward reconnaissance duty.

Pvt Nichols (Co A) wounded by enemy bullet in shoulder - evac. Pvt Tureski (Co A) IMA in left leg - not evac.

Left 1630 for new area and established new CP at 1805 in LaChappelle area coord 314596.

Cpl Green (Co A) KIA by enemy mine - 1/4 ton damaged beyond repair and replaced.

Co B reported Pvt Egglesten (2nd Platoon) took a prisoner - turned into PW cage.

Lt Standfield and Pvt Padoski (Co C) between gun positions noticed an enemy sniper in a tree and Padoski fired two bursts from his TSMG and killed sniper.

29 July Tec 5 DeMent captured German prisoner - turned over to PW cage.

Lt Horman captured a prisoner - turned over to PW cage.

M51 Maxim Turret Mount of 129th AAA attached to Co B knocked down enemy plane at approximately 2130 hours - confirmed by Infantry according to Capt Pattison, CO of Btry B, 129th AAA.

30 July 129th AAA Btry B relieved of attachment to 635th as of 1000 hours per VOCC 1st US Inf Div.

31 July Left for new area 0707 hrs and arrived 0955 set up new CP coord 309454.

NOTE: Firing companies, especially "B" and "C", reported their gun positions constantly under shell and mortar fire and all their moves heavily shelled.