

HEADQUARTERS  
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 164, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

1 July 1944

SUBJECT: Operations Report

TO : Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C. (thru channels)

1. In compliance with the requirements of paragraph 10, AR 315-105, dated March 10, 1943, the following operations report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion covering the period, 1 June 1944 to 30 June 1944, is herewith submitted.

2. The operations covered in this report are statements from the Unit Journal and the Battalion Diary, and supporting evidence for said statements is attached.

3. Previous operations report submitted and including 31 May 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Jesse B. Wray*  
JESSE B. WRAY  
Capt., 701st T.D. Bn.  
Adjutant.

DOWNGRADED TO:  
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED  
BY AUTHORITY OF TAG... F744

27 Mar 46 \_\_\_\_\_ #60 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Initials

OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period - 1 June - 30 June 1944

Locations of 701st T.D. Bn. beginning of period:

Map - Italy, 1/50,000  
Sheets 158-I, IV, CSQS 4229

- Bn. CP - 880379 (Adv).
  - Bn. CP - 918288 (Rear); Bn Trains - 875218
  - A Co CP - 868103. A-1 - 868103; A-2 - 913373; A-3 - 866391.
  - B Co CP - 871394. B-1 - 863102; B-2 - 869399; B-3 - 873105.
  - C Co CP - 863396. C-1 - 862101; C-2 - 863396; C-3 - 857399.
  - Rcn Co CP - 870401. Base Station - 865100. CP - 868103.
- ATCHD UNIT:  
Rcn Co, 1 AR - 872383. Fwd elements - 862111 and 864111.

June 1, 1944 - Upon relief of 1st A.D. in the Caspolona sector the 701st T.D. Bn. was attached to the 45th Inf. Div. and remained in positions except for slight changes to better the field of fire. Rcn. Co, 701st, maintained AT warning CP at 868103. Rcn. Co, 1st A.R. (atchd), maintained contact with elements on the right, with forward elements at 862111 and 864111.

~~SECRET~~

7/2 1400

94-632

The attack was progressing slowly with the enemy resisting bitterly. One of our CP's reports enemy arty. a little heavier but otherwise everything was OK. "A" Co reports that some of our arty dropped a little too close to them for comfort.

Rcn., 1st A.R., CP reports all secure at 2300 hrs.

June 2, 1944 - Message received at 0015 hrs. from 645th T.D. to be prepared for C/A from vic. of 860416. Companies alerted but nothing developed.

Battalion, less "C" company, relieved from attachment to 15th Div. and attached to CG "A"; moved to assembly area vic. 9234. "C" company alerted to move to assembly area as soon as relieved by 645th T.D. Bn.

Message from CG, 1st A.D., to the effect that the Div., less Howard Force, is placed on one hour alert. "B" company moved to assembly area with CG "A".

Battalion relieved from attachment to CG "A" and attached to Div. Res.

June 3, 1944 - Message from CG, 1st A.D., to the effect Div. is placed on 1/2 hour alert. "A" company moved to assembly area vic. 9335 and is attached to CG "B". Bn., less "A" & "B", moves to area 895345. Attack progressing satisfactorily.

June 4, 1944 - Message from CG, 1st A.D., (see S-3 Journal). "A" company reports that they are moving rapidly. The division is moving toward Rome at a rapid pace. We are out of contact with the companies by radio so it is decided to find ourselves a new CP.

When moving into the new CP Capt. Childs captured 23 prisoners. They had been cut off by our tanks and seemed to be of a pretty good class of Kraut, much better looking than what we have seen recently.

At 1700 hrs "B" company reports they are in the outskirts of Rome.

**SECRET**

"C" company is detached from battalion and attached to CO "A".

June 5, 1944 - Bn reports that they are where they should be. They think, but cannot give exact location because they have no maps. Maps are scarce, Army is having trouble keeping ahead of us with maps.

All companies have crossed the Tiber and are pursuing the enemy to the north. Rome was an open city, the only resistance being from a few scattered snipers which were quickly taken care of.

"A" company reports knocking out eight vehicles just before crossing the river. A couple were ammo trucks; the rest were prime movers pulling "flak wagons".

The battalion CP remained on the outskirts of Rome until about 2100 hrs waiting for guide.

June 6, 1944 - Battalion CP opened at 0300 at 687577. At 1030 news came that the invasion had started and that the Allies had landed between Cherbourg and Le Havre. This news was broadcast to the Bn. on both the FM and AM radios.

Bn Co. was detached from Bn. and attached to 3rd Bn, 1st AB, and will act as Bn for Task Force Cole. There is only Bn. Hq. left; all companies have been detached.

June 7, 1944 - Bn Command Group moved to 529858. All companies still detached. The enemy is still retreating; very little resistance except for occasional AT guns and snipers. Our biggest worries are demotions. The enemy is a past master.

The S-3 half-track broke down and while waiting for maint. the driver captured a German officer who was dressed in civilian clothes. He was turned over to the MPs.

**SECRET**

June 8, 1944 - Major Doran took over Major Tuck's Force which had been providing road blocks for CG "A" in area north and northeast of 8493. Bn. CP moved to 490939. Major Doran's force consisted of the 701st T.D. Bn. (- "A", "B", "C", & Rcn) with "B" Co 1 AR, "C" Co 6th Inf, 1 plat "B" Co 701st, 1 plat "B" Co 16th Engrs., 1 plat "A" Co 1st AR (light trks), 1 plat. Rcn Co 1st AR. Alerted to move to assembly area vic. of Vetralla.

Upon arrival at Vetralla orders were received from CG "A" to attack and secure the town of Viterbo. The attack jumped off at 1030 hrs. CG of CG "A" had orders to take town night of 8-9 June.

At 2035 hrs a message from Major Doran to CG of CG "A" stated that he had tried to take the town but needed some more infantry to clear out the town. The 1st Bn 135th Inf., 34th Div., was alerted to move by truck to assembly area about 2500 yds outside the town of Viterbo.

June 9, 1944 - The Infantry jumped off at 0100 and armor at 0500. The attack moved forward swiftly and the town was secured by 0930; road blocks set up and rcn sent out to reconnoiter routes to the north and northwest and to contact the French.

The force was relieved at 1100 hrs and moved to assembly area prior to moving to rest area at Lake Bracciano.

"B" company reverted to Bn control at 1800 hrs and movement to new area started at 2000 hrs being completed at 0110 hrs.

June 10, 1944 - Bn (a "A" & Trains) closed at 0110 hrs. Trains closed at 0430, "A" company enroute to assembly area. "C" company had closed previously to Command Group and reverted to Bn Control upon arrival of Bn. in Bracciano area.

The period from June 10 to June 17 was devoted to maintenance of

**SECRET**

vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel and pieces to hand for as many of the personnel as possible.

June 12 orders were received attaching the 701st T.D. Bn to the 150th F.A. Brigade. This was later changed on verbal order of CG 5th Army and the Bn. remained with the 1st A.D.

June 17, 1944 - Operational Instruction #2 received from 1 A.D. giving march table for movement of Division to forward assembly area vicinity Altkirch vic. (S 7030). "C" company attached to CG "D" and will march with them.

June 18, 1944 - The Battalion (-"D") marched at 0845 to assembly area vic. 718544 closing at 0930, 19 June 1944.

June 20, 1944 - "D" company was attached to CG "A". The day was spent in maintenance and preparation for the coming offensive.

June 21, 1944 - CG "A" & CG "B" jumped off at 1500 hrs and the Bn. (-"C" & "D") attached to Div. Sec. and alerted for movement.

June 22, 1944 - "A" company attached to 2nd Bn., 13 A.D. and moved into bivouac vic. 017799 to await further orders.

1st platoon of "D" company plus a light tank company was cut off by AF/S and Lt VP B. All four M2's and 12 light tanks knocked out.

2701-1=  
5/11/04/12/145

also on  
M10

Command tank 1st plat. hit and burned; Lt. Smith badly burned and wounded; one M4 wounded and burned. 3 M4 KIA.

Friendly fighter bombers bombed and strafed road vic. of 025300 getting direct hit on the Bn. ambulance, killing 1 officer and 4 M4. The bombing took place between 6 & 7 thousand yards behind line of contact.

Sec. company has mission of reconnaissance for Task Force Rome. They have been doing a fine bit of work.

June 23, 1944 - Sec. under command of CG of Div. Sec. continues to re-

**SECRET**

concoiter routes for Tank Force House. "A" company is attached directly to  
and Lt. 13 A.S.

From all reports, both civilian and military, the enemy appears to be  
withdrawing all his artillery and heavy equipment; leaving just small groups  
to fight rear guard action. Conditions are quite heavy.

June 24, 1944 - Attack continues with House Force pushing ahead vigor-  
ously in the center. Bn. company reverted to Bn. control for rest and reequip-  
ing. The 3 gun companies have no change in attachment.

"C" company had four new destroyers turned over to them; bring them up  
to twelve.

June 25, 1944 - The attack continues. Bn. still doing maintenance  
which is progressing satisfactorily. "A" company continues to support the  
House Force; "D" company with CO "B" and "E" company with CO "A".

"A" company accounted for one M1 VI and "B" company 75 AT/S, one  
of 150mm, and five mortars.

June 26, 1944 - The attack is still going full blast; not too much res-  
istance in the House Force sector. CO "A" and CO "B" have been running into a  
bit of trouble. During the fighting "D" company knocked out a "Ferdinand."

The companies are in pretty good shape as far as I/O's are concerned.  
Our biggest worry is getting crews. Our casualties are mostly gunners, drivers,  
and section chiefs in the gun companies. Bn. doesn't have a platoon sergeant  
left and has lost quite a few other key men.

June 27, 1944 - The enemy continues his withdrawal north toward the  
Pisa - Florence line with only small delaying forces guarding road blocks and  
demolitions. There have been no changes in attachments of the companies.

June 28, 1944 - "A" company knocked out 2 of AT/S 75mm and personnel.  
Nothing more happened. The attack still progressing satisfactorily.

**SECRET**

June 29, 1944 - Resistance spasmodic with the usual small scattered groups with AT/G's and an occasional tank. The advance held up mostly by road blocks and demolitions. "A" company reports knocking out SP AT/G towing AT/G.

One EM KIA and 2 WIA when shell exploded prematurely.

June 30, 1944 - The division attacked again; each Combat Command in its zone. The same resistance as reported previously being encountered. Rcn. Co. had fire fight with enemy infantry. The only other report was from "B" Co. which reported the one MIO hit land mine and that one EM was wounded in action.

Report by Lt. Coogan "A" company is submitted covering action of 1st platoon from June 23rd to June 28th Incl.

Location of 701st T. D. Bn. at end of period:

In CP - 527127. Bn Trains - 594035  
"A" Co - CP - 512122; A1 - 508161; A2 & 3 - 512122  
"B" Co - CP - 604122; B1 & 2 - 602172; B-3 - 624167  
"C" Co - CP - 480140; C1 & 3 - 398220; C2 - 448176  
Rcn Co - CP - 513125; 1st Rcn Plt. - 599090 (w/Co M);  
2nd Rcn Plt. - 508162; 3rd Rcn Plt. - 504168.

SECRET

**ANNEX:**

Total Ammunition expended during period month of June 1944:

APC	942
HE	1698
Time 154	20
Smoke	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2672</b>

**Casualties:**

See attached annex.

**SECRET**



BATTLE CASUALTIES (ALL CATEGORIES) - PERIOD 1 - 30 JUNE 1944

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>		<u>TYPE</u>
1.	EDWARDS, JAMES D.	15045762	TEC 5	"A"	LASCARIA	2 JUN 44		LIA
2.	BLAKENSHIP, WILLIAM A.	6935393	S/SGT.	"B"	AN IO	3 JUN 44		LIA
3.	STAINAKER, ERNEST O.	6894860	PVT	"A"	AREIO	4 JUN 44		SEA
4.	WHITSY, ROBERT J.	0418880	CAPT	"B"	CASOLA	8 JUN 44		LWA
5.	WRIGHT, JOHN M.	0449084	CAPT	"A"	TUSCANIA	9 JUN 44		LEA
6.	TUDOR, MILTON R.	34088236	S/SGT.	"A"	TUSCANIA	9 JUN 44		LWA
7.	PERIES, LAVERNE J.	36078989	PFC	"A"	NECANIA	9 JUN 44		LWA
8.	FUSKILL, JULIUS J.	34208886	SGT	"C"	GRONETTO	21 JUN 44		LIA
9.	SMITH, HARRY (NMI)	02046704	1ST LT	"C"	RAVI	22 JUN 44		SWA
10.	STEWART, CALVIN J.	34803747	PVT	"C"	RAVI	22 JUN 44		SWA
11.	ORRICO, ANTHONY S.	0473160	CAPT	REG DET	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		KIA
12.	DALRY, MELVIN F.	32033802	S/SGT	REG DET	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		KIA
13.	HOWARD, HILLARD (NMI)	6984319	PFC	REG DET	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		KIA
14.	CYBIRAK, MICHAEL (NMI)	12054813	PVT	REG DET	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		KIA
15.	MCCOY, JAMES H.	34172231	S/SGT	RON	LA PESCAIA	22 JUN 44		KIA
16.	LAWRENCE, JR., JONAS A.	17067847	PFC	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
17.	PREISSER, JR, EDGAR A.	38213236	TEC 5	"C"	GAVERRANO	22 JUN 44		KIA
18.	KEENER, RICHARD K.	35386472	PFC	"C"	GAVERRANO	22 JUN 44		KIA
19.	WARR, WILLIAM E.	7040392	PVT	RON	LA PESCAIA	22 JUN 44		KIA
20.	ALLAN, FRANK G.	33126411	SGT	"C"	RAVI	22 JUN 44		MIA
21.	RICHSON, ARNOLD W.	36803500	TEC 5	"C"	RAVI	22 JUN 44		MIA
22.	ANDERSON, CARL C.	36457419	PFC	"C"	RAVI	22 JUN 44		MIA
23.	GRAHAM, THOMAS E.	34172128	TEC 5	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
24.	CASACENA, GUIDO	31020913	PVT	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
25.	STOLIBY, WILL B.	34134114	PFC	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
26.	LEWIS, JOHN R.	01821884	2D LT	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
27.	PATTERSON, JOE H.	34147351	S/SGT	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SEA
28.	BURCH, FREDERICK G.	6662947	PVT	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
29.	STEELE, GEORGE (NMI)	34088760	TEC 5	RON	PESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
30.	BEZIATY, WALTER M.	15098205	SGT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		SWA
31.	DEBOTO, ALBERT N.	37328369	SGT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		SWA
32.	KERN, ROY E.	20714973	SGT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		SWA
33.	KNOHR, ALLEN E.	35230761	CPL	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		SWA
34.	BIGGS, LAWRENCE F.	34333008	SGT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		LWA
35.	URBAN, EARL L.	35029497	S/SGT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		LWA
36.	UHL, RICHARD S.	36302153	TEC 5	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		LWA
37.	MCNAIR, JOHN L.	38018181	PVT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		LWA
38.	NOVAK, WILLIAM J.	35320783	PVT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		LWA
39.	JACKSON, ROBERT J.	01822010	1ST LT	"C"	GOVORRANO	22 JUN 44		LWA
40.	BOWMAN, TODD C.	37088877	PFC	"B"	PAGANICO	22 JUN 44		LIA
41.	SCOTT, EDWARD E.	6988943	TEC 4	"B"	PAGANICO	22 JUN 44		LIA
42.	MCNORTON, JESSIE F.	7040412	TEC 5	"A"	MONTEPESCALI	22 JUN 44		SWA
43.	GRANDLAND, IRVING (NMI)	32058908	S/SGT	HQ	MONTEPESCALI	22 JUN 44		LIA
44.	PLUNKETT, EARL M.	36051971	TEC 5	HQ	MONTEPESCALI	22 JUN 44		LIA
45.	TALLEY, ROY O.	34147322	PFC	HQ	MONTEPESCALI	22 JUN 44		LIA
46.	LAWRENCE, JR., JONAS A.	17067847	PFC	RON	MONTEPESCALI	22 JUN 44		KIA
47.	WILLI, JOHN M.	35168871	PFC	RON	MONTENASSI	23 JUN 44		LWA
48.	STEWART, JAMES E.	34172082	TEC 5	"C"	CARDIGNONE	23 JUN 44		LWA
49.	DECHMAN, JOHN T.	01422378	1ST LT	"B"	ROCCOSTRADA	23 JUN 44		LIA
50.	ASHMORE, LYLE T.	37243111	CPL	"A"	MONTEPESCALI	23 JUN 44		LWA

**SECRET**

51.	SIMPLETTE, LESTER (NMI)	34431683	SQT	"C"	MASSA MARTINA	24 JUN 44	SIA
52.	HACK, RALPH A.	13085463	PFC	"C"	MASSAMARTINA	24 JUN 44	LIA
53.	JACOBSON, ROBERT J.	01227010	1ST LT	"C"	MASSAMARTINA	24 JUN 44	LIA
54.	BARCA, ALBERT E.	35456644	TSG 5	"B"	MOCCOSTRADA	25 JUN 44	LIA
55.	BOWLING, ANDERSON	35458578	SQT	"A"	MONTMARI	25 JUN 44	SIA
56.	BRATTY, FRANCIS J.	33776632	PFC	"C"	MONTMARI	25 JUN 44	LIA
57.	IKELNSKY, ANTHONY A.	35029758	1ST	"A"	ROCCA SCIANO	27 JUN 44	LIA
58.	WILLINSON, DAVID L.	33116528	PFC	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	27 JUN 44	LIA
59.	JACOBSON, ROBERT J.	01822010	1ST LT	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	27 JUN 44	LIA
60.	SHYMAN, THOMAS R.	16094405	CPL	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	27 JUN 44	LIA
61.	WEST, JR., ROBERT (NMI)	15057024	PVI	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	27 JUN 44	LIA
62.	DENT, RAY W.	34088281	PVT	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	27 JUN 44	LIA
63.	LARNEY, RALPH B.	34171574	SQT	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	28 JUN 44	LIA
64.	UHL, RICHARD E.	36352163	TSG 5	"C"	MONTFRUTONDO	29 JUN 44	LIA
65.	WOKKELL, JAMES E.	34171322	CPL	"A"	ROCCAFRANCESCO	29 JUN 44	SIA
66.	COHEN, WILLIAM H.	6582728	S/SQT	"B"	S. MARTE	29 JUN 44	LIA
67.	KEMMER, LOUIS (NMI)	35388774	PVT	"B"	S. MARTE	29 JUN 44	LIA
68.	WOOLY, LEVINTON (NMI)	37088629	CPL	"B"	S. MARTE	29 JUN 44	LIA
69.	COOPERMAN, HAROLD (NMI)	3278074	PVT	"B"	S. MARTE	29 JUN 44	LIA
70.	KNEPPA, JOHN P.	32554652	PVT	"A"	LAZZARI	30 JUN 44	LIA
71.	CORHAN, JOHN C.	35028213	PVT	"C"	LAZZARI	30 JUN 44	LIA

SECRET

AWARDS DURING PERIOD 1 - 30 JUNE 1944

During this period Purple Heart Medals were awarded to the following personnel of the Battalion for wounds received in action against the enemy:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Sgt. Donald J. Blank, 33246805, Co. "A"       | 23. Pvt. Joseph J. Gambaccini, 31311917,       |
| 2. Pfc Merojildo Gurule, 33011592, Co. "A"       | 24. T/5 John P. Krempa, 32554652, Co. "A"      |
| 3. T/5 John A. Peterson, 36302104, Co. "A"       | 25. S/Sgt Milton R Turner, 34088236, Co A      |
| 4. Pvt Donald Ehnat, 12033202, Co. "C"           | 26. Cpl Lewis E Pearson, 15047326, Co A.       |
| 5. Sgt George A. Smith, 33119934, Co. "C"        | 27. Pfc Roy O. Talley, 34147322, Hq Co.        |
| 6. T/5 Allen K. Smith, 13117843, Co. "A"         | 28. Cpl Norman P. Ladus, 11000122, Co A.       |
| 7. Pvt Vincent R. DeFabio, 32796111, Co. "A"     | 29. T/4 Edward E. Scott, 6988943, Co B.        |
| 8. Pvt Ernest O. Stalnaker, 6894860, Co. "A"     | 30. T/5 George Steele, 34088760, Rcn Co.       |
| 9. Pfc Lexie J. Pegrum, 34171536, Rcn. Co.       | 31. Pvt Guido Castagna, 31020913, Rcn Co.      |
| 10. 1st Lt Frank W. Cady, III, 0464631, Co "B"   | 32. S/Sgt Joe H Patterson, 34147351, Rcn Co    |
| 11. T/5 Leonard L. Jokerst, 37132039, Co. "C"    | 33. Pvt Frederick G Bursch, 6662947, Rcn Co    |
| 12. T/5 Ralph S. Albertson, 37290344, Co. "C"    | 34. Pvt Thomas F Harrington, 20714973, Co. "C" |
| 13. T/5 George H. Laythe, 31079676, Co. "B"      | 35. Sgt Roy E. Keen, 20714973, Co. "C"         |
| 14. Pfc Alfred C. Davies, 10600342, Co. "B"      | 36. Capt Robert F Childs, 0452336, Hq Co       |
| 15. Pvt. Lloyd Parks, 32953160, Co. "B"          | 37. 2d Lt John R. Lewis, 01821884, Rcn Co      |
| 16. Cpl Loveston Woody, 37038629, Co. "B"        | 38. Pfc Todd C. Bowman, 37038877, Co "B"       |
| 17. Pfc James J. Casella, 31097650, Co. "B"      | 39. Pfc Francis J Beatty, 33776632, Co "C"     |
| 18. S/Sgt William A Blankenship, 6985393, Co "B" | 40. Sgt Anderson Bowling, 35458598, Co "A"     |
| 19. Sgt Thadins A Weaver, 32026951, Co. "C"      | 41. Cpl Lyle T Ashmore, 37343141, Co "A"       |
| 20. 1st Lt Robert W Skibby, 01170195, Co. "C"    | 42. S/Sgt Irving Granbard, 32058908, Hq Co     |
| 21. Capt John M. Wright, 0449084, Co. "A"        | 43. T/5 Earl M Plunkett, 36051971, Hq Co       |
| 22. Pvt Webber Mansfield, 35119163, Co. "A".     |  |

Oak Leaf Clusters were awarded, in addition to the Purple Heart previously awarded, to the following members of the Battalion for wounds received in action against the enemy:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. 1st Lt Walter E. Loveless, 01823546, Co "           | 7. Cpl Lewis E. Pearson, 15047326, Co A.    |
| 2. Sgt Ray F. Manshaw, 3229080, Co. "B"                | 8. Sgt Albert M. Desoto, 37328369, Co C.    |
| 3. 2nd Lt James Williams, 01824261, Co. "B"            | 9. T/5 James E. Stewart, 34172082, Co C.    |
| 4. Cpl Francis E. Ritchey, 33247000, Co. "C"           | 10. T/5 Anthony A Zelinsky, 35029758, Co A. |
| 5. T/5 Leonard L. Jokerst, 37132029, Co. "C"           |   |
| 6. Capt Robert J. Whitsit, 0418820, Co B (2nd Cluster) |   |

**SECRET**