

SECRET

## HEADQUARTERS 2nd TANK DESTROYER Group

APO 230, United States Army

2 July 44.

(Date)

T D Report # 1 From 250600 June 44 to 020600 July 44

## 1. STATUS:

- a. 2nd TD Gp.\* Attached XIX Corps.
- b. 803rd TD Bn - Attached 82nd AB Division.
- c. 821st TD Bn - attached 29th Inf. Div.
- d. 823rd TD Bn - Attached 29th Inf Div.
- e. 703rd TD Bn. - Attached 3rd Armored Division.

## 2. OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD:

- a. 2nd TD Gp - Landed 24 June 1944 in Normandy, France, and proceeded to present location. Attached XIX Corps. Supervised the operation of TD units under XIX Corps control.
- b. 803rd TD Bn. - 25 June 1944. Attached 29th Inf Div in division reserve. Gun positions selected for primary mission. One company attached 111th FA Bn. on secondary mission. 27 June 1944, Bn attached 3rd Armored Division CC "A" for attack on 29th Div. front. Letter companies attached to Task Force "X", "Y", and "Z". Recon (1 platoon) generally held in division reserve. 1st of July, Bn attached 82nd Airborne Division, VIII Corps.
- c. 821st TD Bn - Landed in Normandy, France, 25 June, 1944. Moved to assembly area A30, attached 2nd TD Group, XIX Corps reserve. 27th June 1944, attached 29th Inf Div; moved to 535726 (vicinity of Moon Sur Elle) 28th June 1944. 1 July 1944 occupied positions for primary mission. Bn in general support of the infantry. Recon platoons used as outposts and patrols on right (West) flank of supported units.
- d. 823rd TD Bn. - Attached 29th Inf Div Arty for general support. Co. "C" used on indirect fire missions 26 June, firing eight concentrations, 226 rounds. 26 June, 1 gun Co. "C" fired 5 rounds HE and 20 rounds CPA at enemy pillbox, results unknown. Recon platoons used as static security screen from 504704 to 521699. Bn new in position of readiness, vicinity 533709.
- e. 703rd TD Bn. - Arrived Normandy, France, 30 June. Closed in assembly area A30 on 1 July. Bn. in assembly area, vicinity Castilly, attached 3rd Armored Division.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ TD Bn. -

STATUS OF M-10's or 3" GUNS (Towed):

UNIT	LOSSES			STATUS			DEADLINED			REMARKS
	Mech. Failure	Enemy Action	Recov-ered	Not Re-covered	Repair-able	Not Re-pairable	Oper-ational			
803rd	0	0	0	0	1	0	35	As of 020900B July.		
821st	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	Inc. prime movers.		
823rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	" " "		
703rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	" " "		

ENEMY MATERIEL DESTROYED:

UNIT	ARM'D VEHICLES										ROUNDS FIRED								
	VI	V	IV	III	SP	Other	GP	Veh	AT	Pill	Gun	Boxes	M.G.	P.W.	APC	Other	Direct	Indirect	
803	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	440	0	0	0	0	300	0
821	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
823	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	20	0	0	502	0
703	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	445	20	20	0	0	802	0

TACTICAL STRENGTH

UNIT	CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD		OPERATIONAL STRENGTH	
	Officers	Enlisted Men	Officers	Enlisted Men
2nd TD Group	0	0	13	58
803rd TD Bn.	0	19	39	565
821st TD Bn.	0	1	31	747
823rd TD Bn.	1	18	33	739
703rd TD Bn.	0	0	37	636

REMARKS: As a result of combat experience the following observations by battalion commanders are submitted for your information:

- a. The majority of casualties have occurred from artillery and mortar fire. It is suggested that slit trenches be dug in open fields away from trees. Shells bursting in trees cause casualties, if slit trenches are close by.
- b. Heavy equipment can not be recovered near front lines if enemy is using mortar fire to any extent.
- c. When destroyers are used, for close support of advancing infantry, they must be kept a short distance behind the infantry elements for protection against rifle grenade and bazooka fire.
- d. The muzzle blast of TD's firing interdiction and harassing missions at night is easily picked up by the enemy and consequently, counter-battery can be expected in such instances.
- e. The movement of TD's, especially towed guns, into firing positions during daylight hours is very difficult, and in most instances, has drawn considerable fire by the enemy. Attempts to move guns into position under cover of darkness have drawn fire by our own troops and in order to obviate this it is necessary to closely coordinate your movements with the front line infantry.

STATUS OF M-10's or 3" GUNS (Towed):

UNIT	LOSSES			STATUS			DEADLINED			REMARKS
	Mech. Failure	Enemy Action	Recov-ered	Not Re-covered	Repair-able	Not Re-pairable	Opera-tional			
821	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36		
823		1	1			1		35	Sight and mount damaged.	
703								36		

ENEMY MATERIEL DESTROYED:

UNIT	ARM'D VEHICLES								ROUNDS FIRED											
	VI	V	IV	III	SP	Other	GP	Other	Veh	AT	Pill	Boxes	M.G.	P.W.	AFC	Other	S	PC	Other	
821																				364
823																				4047
703																				
TOTAL:																				

TACTICAL STRENGTH

UNIT	CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD		OPERATIONAL STRENGTH	
	Officers	Enlisted Men	Officers	Enlisted Men
821		1 killed - 2 wounded	33	740
823		3 wounded	33	739
703			36	668

- REMARKS:
- (1.) Self-propelled units are unanimous in preference for Diesel - powered M-10's over gasoline powered vehicles because of the greatly minimized danger of fire.
  - (2.) Considerable difficulty was experienced in the relief of a towed bn. by another towed bn. in primary mission. The daytime movement drew enemy mortar and artillery fire. Such action must be accomplished under cover of darkness and then closely coordinated w/infantry.
  - (3.) A towed TD unit ordered to move to a forward direct fire position to support infantry units being counterattacked, was unable to do so because of enemy small arms and mortar fire.
  - (4.) More teamwork and mutual confidence between TD, and supported units is necessary.
  - (5.) No enemy tanks were encountered during the period.

NOTE:

No weekly ammunition expenditure report was received from 823rd TD. Bn. Action being taken to have this report submitted promptly.

No ammunition was expended during the period by the 703rd TD. Bn. Basic load remains complete.

**S E C R E T**

HEADQUARTERS **2nd TANK DESTROYER Group**

APO **230**, United States Army

**9 July 44**

(Date)

T D Report # **2** From **070600 0600Z July** to **090600 0600Z July 1944**

**1. STATUS:**

- a. **2nd** TD Gp,\* Attached **IX Corps**.
- b. **821st** TD Bn - Attached **29th Infantry Div.**
- c. **823rd** TD Bn - Attached **30th Infantry Div.**
- d. **703rd** TD Bn - Attached **3rd Armored Div.**



**2. OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD:**

- a. **2nd** TD Gp - Remained in present position for the period. Supervised employment of TD Units under **IX Corps** control.
- b. **821st** TD Bn - Attached **29th Infantry Div.** for the period. Battalion on primary mission until July 4--companies deployed in regimental sectors in close support of the infantry. July 4, Co. "B", two platoons of Co. "A", were detached from their supported infantry regiments and reverted to battalion control. July 6, Co. "B" moved into secondary fire positions and fired harassing and interdiction missions nights of 7-8, 8-9 July. 8 July, recon. platoons released to battalion now on recon. missions in div. sector.
- c. **823rd** TD Bn - Attached **30th Infantry Div.** 2 to 3rd of July. All companies in direct fire positions in close support of the infantry regiments. **OS1920** relieved **29th Div.**, assigned **30th Inf. Div.** Companies in indirect fire positions, fired missions assigned by Div. Arty.--"A" Co. from **435828**, "B" and "C" companies from **590754**. 4 July, all companies registered, and "B" Co. fired one concentration. 5 and 6 July, battalion fired a total of 32 company concentrations. 7 July, fired Div. Arty. preparation schedule plus additional call missions. Following establishment **Vire River Crossing** by **117th Infantry**, first and third platoons of "C" Co. crossed and established positions astride main road. Areas occupied were not cleared of enemy, and one company of **117th Inf.** was called upon to relieve one gun surrounded by the enemy. Enemy counterattacks on the position area during the night were repulsed by the third platoon. Co. "A" crossed **Vire Canal** behind the **120th Infantry** evening of July 7. Co. "B" in direct fire positions at **473746**, 7 July.
- d. **703rd** TD Bn - Attached **3rd Armored Div.** Battalion less Co. "B" and 1st platoon of Recon. Co. attached **CCA**. Co. "B" and one platoon of recon. attached **GCB**. **OS July** battalion closed in assembly area **577752 (V Corps)**. Co. "B" plus one platoon of recon. attached **CCA**. Remained in assembly position 4-7 July. 8 July battalion in direct support of Div. task forces crossed **Vire River** and occupied assembly positions in vicinity of **Aire**. 9 July, companies in direct fire positions in support of **CCA** and **GCB**. No enemy tanks encountered.

STATUS OF M-10's or 3" GUNS (Towed):

UNIT	LOSSES		STATUS		DEADLINED		REMARKS
	Mech. Failure	Enemy Action	Recov-ered	Not Re-covered	Repair-able	Not Re-pairable	
821							Towed
823		2	2		2		Towed
654	1	2		2	1		Self-Propelled
703	1	2	3		2		Self-Propelled

ENEMY MATERIEL DESTROYED:

UNIT	ARM'D VEHICLES							ROUNDS FIRED										
	VI	V	IV	III	SP	Other	GP	Veh	AT	Pill	M.G.	P.W.	APC	OS	S	PC	Other	
821	NEGATIVE																	
823		1										3	13	1				
654											28	14	483	528		3810	21	
703			1										4	37				
TOTAL:																		

TACTICAL STRENGTH

UNIT	CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD		OPERATIONAL STRENGTH	
	Officers	Enlisted Men	Officers	Enlisted Men
821	1	4	32	736
823		38	33	714
654	1	5	35	631
703	1	22	36	641

REMARKS:

1. Tank destroyer units with XIX Corps, encountered no enemy armor during this period.
2. There was one incident of friendly tanks attacking tank destroyer units.
3. The employment of Tank Destroyers as assault guns for purposes of knocking out machine gun nests and shooting up hedgerows should be resorted to only as an emergency measure.

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2nd TANK DESTROYER Group

APO 230, United States Army

16 July 44.

(Date)

T D Report # 3 From 090600 July 44 to 160600 July 44.

1. STATUS:

- a. 2nd TD Gp.\* Attached XIX Corps
- b. 654th TD Bn - Attached 35th Infantry Division.
- c. 821st TD Bn - Attached 29th Infantry Division.
- d. 823rd TD Bn - Attached 30th Infantry Division.
- e. 703rd TD Bn - Attached 3rd Armored Division.



2. OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD:

- a. 2nd TD Gp - Coordinated anti-tank defenses in Corps zone - supervised employment of Tank Destroyer units.

Debarked Omaha Beach closed present location 1700 13 July 44.

- b. 654th TD Bn - 13 - 16th July 44 supported attack of 35th Infantry Division by direct and indirect fire. One (1) platoon each from "A", "B", and "C" Company supported the 137th, 134th, and 320th Infantry respectively, with direct fire. These platoons fired into hedgerows and houses routing the enemy infantry. One (1) platoon from "C" Company supporting the 320th Infantry, is credited with twenty-one (21) enemy machine guns destroyed. Two (2) platoons of ren. co. used to increase security of "A" and "B" Companies - also used on ren. of front lines. The 3rd platoon of ren. co. was held in Battalion Reserve.

091740 July 44 Battalion CP moved to 55807220. "B" Company remained in indirect fire position. "C" Company and first platoon of "A" remained in direct fire supporting 116th Infantry and 175th Infantry

- c. 821st TD Bn - respectively. 092140 July 44, 2nd and 3rd platoons "A" Company relieved 2nd and 3rd platoons of "B" Company. 10 July 44 1st platoon, Company "A" relieved from attachment 175th Infantry reverted to Battalion control moved to assembly position vicinity of Battalion CP. Battalion had no activity during this period.

9 July 44 Companies in direct fire positions SOUTH and WEST of VIRE RIVER. CP at 499744. Enemy counterattacked on Division front - no tanks encountered - Battalion lost one (1) 3" gun by fire from friendly tanks. During this action, Battalion destroyed two (2) U.S. medium tanks that had fired upon them. Visibility was poor and attempts to identify themselves as friendly troops were ignored and tanks continued to fire at Tank Destroyer guns and personnel.

- d. 823rd TD Bn - 11 July, 1st ren. platoon destroyed one (1) PzKw IV with rocket launchers capturing two (2) prisoners. 12 July ren. of forward areas for gun positions. 13 - 14 July gun positions prepared in forward areas. Entire periods with exception of first day consisted of a slow continuous push WEST and SOUTH behind advancing infantry. Bn made a continuous effort to locate gun positions well forward to give close support to Infantry.

- e. 703rd TD Bn. - (SP) - Attached 3rd Armored Div., closed in assembly area one (1) Kilometer NORTHWEST of AIRE 090250B July. Bn moved to new area two (2) Kilometers SOUTHEAST of ST. JEAN DE DAYE 10 July. "A" and "C" Companies attached CC "A", 3rd Armored Div 8 and 11 July respectively. "B" Co attached CC "B" 3rd Arm Div 7 July to 16 July. 120800 July, 2nd Plat. "B" strafed by friendly planes on HILL 91, and 2 casualties, one serious. Bn did not contact enemy armor during period. An attack 3rd Arm Div, attached VII Corps, 152400B July 44.

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2nd TANK DESTROYER Group

APO 230, United States Army

23 July 44

(Date)

T D Report # 4 From 160600 July 44 to 230600 July 44

1. STATUS:

- a. 2nd TD Gp. \* Attached XIX Corps.
- b. 303rd TD Bn - In XIX Corps reserve on primary mission.
- c. 821st TD Bn - Atchd 29th Inf Div, 16 - 20 July -- atchd 30 Inf Div 20 - 23 July.
- d. 654th TD Bn - Atchd 35 Inf Div - Atch Div Arty.



2. OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD:

- a. 2nd TD Gp - Coordinated anti-tank defense in Corps zone - supervised employment of Tank Destroyer Units.

- b. 303rd TD Bn - Battalion relieved from attachment 8th Inf Div, atchd XIX Corps. 16 - 23 July Battalion in Corps reserve. Co. "C" fired indirect fire missions - 1074 rounds. Co. "B" attached Task Force "C", 29th Div - supported attack and capture of St. Lo. Company Commanding Officer and one (1) Sergeant killed by mortar fire in St. Lo.

- c. 821st TD Bn - 16 - 20 July attached 29th Inf Div. "A" Co fired secondary missions two (2) nights - 263 rounds. One (1) platoon com. attached Task Force "C" 29th Inf Div - entered St. Lo - relieved 190845 reverted to Battalion control. 17 July Battalion moved to assembly area 55606820. 20 July Battalion attached 35th Inf Div. Co. "B" in direct fire positions.

- d. 654th TD Bn - 16 July - one (1) Co. in support of each Inf Regt with one (1) platoon from each Col indirect fire position and two (2) platoons from each Co. in close support of the infantry. One (1) platoon "C" Co. knocked out enemy's Battalion CP with direct fire - killing Battalion Commanding Officer and several others - Captured thirty (30). 17 - 19 July platoons from "A" And "B" Co. in direct support knocked out several strong points, machine guns, mortar positions and captured two (2) PW's. 20 July platoon of "B" Co. in St. Lo - two (2) officers killed.

STATUS OF M-10's or 3" GUNS (Towed):

UNIT	LOSSES			STATUS			DEADLINED			REMARKS
	Mech. Failure	Enemy Action	Recov-ered	Not Re-covered	Repair-able	Not Re-pairable	Oper-ational			
803		2	2		2			36	Exch. 4th Ech. Ord.	
821		1	1		1			36		
654	1		1		1			36	Two (2) lost last wk recovered and evacuated.	
TOTAL	1	3	3		4			108		

ENEMY MATERIEL DESTROYED:

UNIT	ARM'D VEHICLES							ROUNDS FIRED											
	VI	V	IV	III	SP	Other	GP	Veh	AT	Pill	M.G.	P.W.	APC	Other	SM	PC	Other		
803					2				1			2	4	67	101	0	0	1074	3
821																		263	
654										1		7	4	28	62	0	0	1621	2
TOTAL					2				1	1		9	8	95	163	0	0	2958	5

TACTICAL STRENGTH

UNIT	CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD		OPERATIONAL STRENGTH	
	Officers	Enlisted Men	Officers	Enlisted Men
803	1	15	41	631
821	1	12	33	724
654	3	3	34	613
TOTAL	5	30	108	1968

REMARKS:

SECRET



**S E C R E T**

HEADQUARTERS **2nd TANK DESTROYER Gp.**

AFO **230**, United States Army

**31 July 44**

(Date)

T D Report # **5** From **230600B July 44** to **300600B July 44**

**1. STATUS:**

- a. **2nd** TD Gp.\* - Atch'd XIX Corps.
- b. **823rd** TD Bn - Atch'd 30th Inf Div
- c. **803rd** TD Bn - Atch'd XIX Corps - Minus one company
- d. **821st** TD Bn - Atch'd 29th Inf Div



**2. OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD:**

- a. **2nd** TD Gp - Attached XIX Corps for period, CP at 554736. Supervised and coordinated actions of Tank Destroyer Units in Corps.
- b. **823rd** TD Bn - Bn. at 475578. Attached 30th Inf Div, Atch'd VII Corps at beginning of period. 30th Inf Div attached XIX Corps 281200B. Co. "A" in close support of 120th Inf Regt., "B" Co. supporting 117th Inf Regt., "C" Co in reserve. 2 platoons Co. "C" moved to 492558, at 282100B. Co. "A" had 2 casualties, captured 2 prisoners. During night of 28-29, two enemy air attacks caused no casualties. By 291100, all guns of Bn. were in direct fire missions. Evening of 29th, friendly planes dropped two (2) bombs within "A" Co's. position, which were duds. During night of 29-30 July, enemy air action caused two (2) dead, 10 wounded. Bn. in direct support missions at end of period, atch'd 30th Inf Div.
- c. **803rd** TD Bn - Bn. in XIX Corps reserve at beginning of period at 562687. Two (2) companies on secondary missions with Corps Arty., firing interdiction and harassing fires, until 28 July. Bn. attached 29th Inf Div 28 July, placed in direct support missions with Inf Regts of Div. Co. "C" in direct support of 115th Inf Regt in attack on Percy. At end of period, Bn. at 458541 in XIX Corps Reserve - minus "C" Co. atch'd 115th Inf Regt 29th Inf Div.
- d. **821st** TD Bn - At beginning of period, Bn. located vicinity Souains, atch'd 29th Inf Div Arty, which was atch'd 30th Inf Div. 29th Div Arty released to 29th Inf Div 271100B July. Bn. assembled upon relief by 29th Inf Div and moved to 481594, closing at 290530B. Bn. moved to 488552, closed at 291455B. "A" Co. in direct support mission at 453479, "B" Co in direct support astride road NW of Le Masmil Opac, "C" Co in reserve. No rounds fired during period. At end of period, Bn. at 488552, vicinity St. Sampson de Ben Fesse, atch'd 29th Inf Div.

STATUS OF M-10's or 3" GUNS (Towed):

UNIT	LOSSES			STATUS			DEADLINED			REMARKS
	Mech. Failure	Enemy Action	Recov-ered	Not Re-covered	Repair-able	Not Re-pairable	Oper-ational			
823								36	As of 300800B	
805	0	0	0	0	0	0		36		
821								36	Incl. Prime Movers	

ENEMY MATERIEL DESTROYED:

UNIT	ARM'D VEHICLES							ROUNDS FIRED								
	VI	V	IV	III	SP	Other	GP	Veh MAT	Pill	Boxes	M.G.	P.W.	APC	Other	INDIRECT	
823	Negative															
805															560	7 Smk.
821	Negative															
TOTAL:																

TACTICAL STRENGTH

UNIT	CASUALTIES DURING PERIOD		OPERATIONAL STRENGTH	
	Officers	Enlisted Men	Officers	Enlisted Men
823	0	2k 14 w.	30-2	706 as of 300800B
805	0	1	39-1	610
821	0	4	37	724

REMARKS:

SECRET