

HEADQUARTERS
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO #464 U. S. ARMY

4 May 1944

SUBJECT: Reports of Operations for Period 1-30 April 1944

TO : Commanding General, Third Infantry Division, APO #3, U. S. Army

a. Summary of Our Operations:

Attached to the 34th Infantry Division in the CISTERNA sector of the Anzio Beachhead, the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, with one (1) Company, 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion and one (1) Company, 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed 3" guns) attached, remained in defensive positions and covered two limited-objective infantry attacks against enemy armored counter-attack. The major activities of the Battalion were preparation and improvement of defensive positions, conducting forward observation on field artillery targets, and firing night harassing and interdictory fires from indirect positions. Night direct fire missions, supported by 60mm mortar parachute flares and 4.2 mortar smoke screens were conducted against enemy occupied houses and disabled tanks used as OP's and machine gun posts. Two Tank Destroyer crews have been training on two T-70 Tank Destroyers issued to this Battalion for experimental purposes.

Tabulation of friendly and enemy losses is contained in Annex #1.

Summary of our operations is contained in Annex #2.

b. Summary of Enemy Operations:

During this period the German employed his armor intermittently for harassing missions only. At no time were more than three tanks reported active on our battalion front. Under cover of darkness the enemy spasmodically moved tanks and self-propelled artillery into exposed positions from which he fired harassing fires into our infantry until our artillery counter-battery became too intense.

The enemy continued to utilize knocked-out tanks for observation posts and machine gun positions.

The German being well aware of the fact that we camouflage our armor behind houses has taken every opportunity to zero his guns on the corners of the houses behind which he suspects us to be in position so as to prevent us from pulling out and knocking out his armor. The fact that the enemy is obliged to shoot numerous rounds in order to become properly zeroed has also given away a few of his positions and teamwork (employment of three or four of our self-propelled guns on one or more targets at the same time) will prevent him from accomplishing his purpose.

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c. Situation at End of Period:

"A" Company, 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion with one Section, "B" Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, in position on 133rd Infantry Regiment (right) front with "B" Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion (-) in support position forward of the Canal. "B" Company, 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) with one Platoon, "A" Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, in position on 168th Infantry Regiment (left) front with "A" Company (-) in support positions forward of the Canal. One platoon, "B" Company in indirect firing position for night firing missions. "C" Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion in reserve positions behind Canal as division counter-attacking force with 135th Infantry Regiment.

d. Status of Personnel and Materiel:

Morale of personnel remained on a rather low level due to long periods of inactivity. Successful attempts were made to improve these standards by showing of movies, CASERTA rest camp facilities for a limited number of men, and a regular system of rotation of Companies in positions.

Replacements for personnel rotated to the United States were received and generally considered high calibre men. This unit believes that an increase in rotation percentage of personnel would greatly improve morale and consequent efficiency.

Due to regular shifting of positions, equipment has been available for better and more regular maintenance and the condition of vehicles and guns is considered excellent.

e. Comments and Lessons Learned:

(1) One Platoon, Company "B", has been fitted with hinged armor-plate cover welded to the turret of M-10. Vision slits and cover capable of being thrown back preserves observation of crew members. Sand bags placed in front of driver and assistant driver has increased head-on protection. Remainder of M-10 turrets will be covered when more armor-plate is available.

(2) At least a 6 to 8 power magnifying direct fire telescope is needed on the M-10.

(3) A smoke generator should be available on each M-10.

(4) Use of "Tiny Tim" radio generator for each M-10 is heartily recommended due to radio drain on the M-10 motor.

(5) A sponson .30 calibre machine gun is needed on each M-10 to provide the crew with small arms security. The present .50 calibre machine gun mounted above the turret is not satisfactorily placed for this purpose.

(6) More protection from shell fragments is needed for the radiators of M-10's.

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Daniel S. T. Hinman
DANIEL S. T. HINMAN
Major, Field Artillery
Commanding.

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ANNEX #1

4 May 1944

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE INFLICTED
ON ENEMY, PERIOD:
1 April - 30 April
1944.

TANK: 3rd Plat A Co 701st TD Bn scored 10 hits on KO'ed enemy tank used as OP and Machine Pistol position.

OP: 1st Plat C Co 601st TD Bn scored several direct hits on suspected enemy OP.

20mm Flak Wagon, Mortar. Silenced 20mm Flak-Wagon and mortar fire from vicinity of target of harassing fire mission.

CASUALTIES INCURRED BY 601ST TD BN DURING PERIOD:
1 April - 30 April 1944:

	:"A" CO.:	:"B" CO.:	:"C" CO.:	:RCN CO.:	:HQ CO.:	: TOTAL
EM (SWA, DOW, LWA, KIA)	2	1	1	1	2	7
OFF (SWA, DOW, LWA, KIA)	:	:	:	:	:	NONE
M-10's (KO'ed, not re- pairable in 24 hrs)	:	:	:	:	:	NONE

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ANNEX #2.

4 May 1944

SUMMARY OF EVENTS - APRIL 1944

- April 1 - 2nd Plat A Co fired 48 rnds HE and 48 rnds APC at 5 disabled enemy tanks vic PONTI ROTTO which might be used as OP's or MG nests, resulting in several hits on all tanks. Our guns which fired from F-992290 were fired upon by indirect fire of the enemy. 2nd Plat C Co, 701st TD Bn fired on enemy occupied house at G-051259 with 37 HE and 10 AP; results unknown. OP C Co 805th TD Bn adjusted fire of 634th FA on suspected enemy OP in house vic F-977248, and upon enemy Inf at F-970347 with excellent effect, killing 3 and wounding several others of the enemy. Rcn Co moved OP from G-026266 to G-011282.
- April 2 - OP C Co 805th TD Bn adjusted fire of 634th FA with satisfactory results on enemy Inf vic F-970347.
- April 3 - 2nd Plat C Co 701st TD Bn fired 36 rnds HE at Flak-wagon and enemy personnel N of ISOLA BELLA. OP C Co 805th TD Bn adjusted fire of 634th FA on enemy Inf vic F-970347 with excellent results. B Co, 601st TD Bn relieved A Co 601st TD Bn, in advanced positions during night. Rcn OP at G-011282 heavily shelled during night and moved to G-020278.
- April 4 - A Co Plat, 601st TD Bn, fired a night harassing mission with satisfactory results, on woods just N of F-970347.
- April 5 - C Co 701st TD Bn fired 300 rnds harassing fire on G-030311, G-025298, G-018309, G-050290. OP 805th TD Bn directed 125th FA at SP gun at F-980342; directed 135th Cn Co on enemy infantry at F-970347.
- April 7 - A Co 601st TD Bn relieved C Co 601st TD Bn in forward positions during night. OP C Co 805th TD Bn adjusted fire of 634th FA on an enemy MK IV tank with good effect. 2 shells hit tank.
- April 8 - 2 guns C Co 701st TD Bn fired 80 rnds harassing fire from positions at F-989281 along road from ISOLA BELLA to CISTERNA DI LITTORIA (G-008296 - G-062249). 2 guns C Co 701st TD Bn fired 80 rnds from positions at G-008268, along road at G-010320; and 2 guns from positions at G-013232 fired 80 rnds harassing fires along road leading NW from BORGO PODGORA (G-044240 - G-062249). Rcn OP #1 (F-963276) adjusted fire of 634th FA on enemy gun position at F-91523720 with good effect.
- April 9 - 2nd Plat A Co fired 240 rnds HE harassing fire on road running from G-039291 - G-048278 from positions at F-952252, during night.
- April 10 - 2nd Plat A Co fired 200 rnds HE harassing fire on road from G-039291 - G-048278 and along road from G-039291 - G-036289 and on SP gun believed to have been at G-019313 during night. Fired from positions at F-952252.
- April 11 - 2nd Plat A Co fired 200 rnds HE harassing fire during night; 60 rnds on BELLEAU WOODS (G-043284), 50 rnds on mortar positions at G-037290, 20 rnds at house vic G-0429, and the remainder along road G-039291 - G-048278.

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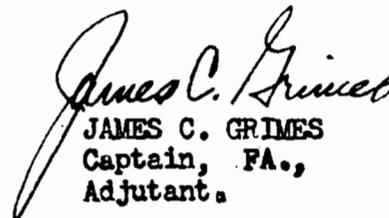
- April 12- 2nd Plat A Co fired 20 rnds harassing fire on BELLEAU WOODS (G-043284), silencing harassing 20mm Flak-wagon and mortar fire. OP 2nd Plat C Co 701 TD adjusted fire of 6 Bns 34th Div Arty on 5 or 6 enemy tanks and SP guns G-01493338. Tanks withdrew, 1 left burning, ammo dump fired. OP 3rd Plat 805 TD Bn adjusted Cn Co 135 RCT on enemy personnel at G-970347 and enemy dispersed. C Co 601 TD Bn relieved B Co 601 TD Bn in place, during night, in support of 135RCT.
- April 13- OP C Co 701 TD adjusted fire of 39 FA Bn on enemy gun positions at G-02223352 which were firing on ISOLA BELLA. Guns were silenced. Five enemy killed or seriously wounded at F-967346 by fire of 135 Gn Co, 135 RCT; fire adjusted by OP 3rd Plat C Co 805th TD Bn. 2nd Plat A Co 601 TD Bn fired 8 rnds adjustment on house at G-039291 by air observation.
- April 14- A Co 701 TD effected relief of C Co 701 TD during night. 1st Plat B Co fired 120 rnds HE harassing fire from F-982285 and F-990285 at enemy howitzer positions at F-99453355 and F-99403375. Also fired on SP at G-00693111 from positions at F-992272, F-995270. 2nd Plat A Co fired 300 rnds harassing fire on BELLEAU WOODS (G-043284), mortar positions G-037290, and along road running from G-039291 to G-049278.
- April 15- 2nd Plat A Co fired 300 rnds HE harassing fire on BELLEAU WOODS (G-043284), mortar positions G-037290 and along road running from G-039291 to G-049278.
- April 16- B Co 601 TD Bn effected relief of A Co 601 TD Bn during night, and 1st and 2nd Plats B Co 805th TD Bn relieved 1st and 2nd Plats C Co 805th TD Bn in 135 sector. 1st Plat B Co fired 200 rnds on 2 SP guns G-01463050 and G-00523104. OP C Co 805 TD Bn adjusted fire of 634 FA Bn on enemy btry at G-008368 with good effect.
- April 17- 1st Plat B Co 601 TD Bn fired 480 rnds harassing fire on road net to the N and NW of CISTERNA DI LITTORIA. 3rd Plat B Co 805 TD Bn relieved 3rd Plat C Co 805 TD Bn in forward positions, during night in the 135 RCT sector.
- April 18- 1st Plat B Co fired 275 rnds HE harassing fire during night from F-952252 on BELLEAU WOODS G-044285, BORGO CARSO G-073262, and 88 Park G-048294.
- April 19- 1st Plat B Co fired 400 rnds HE at: 88 Park G-048294, Crossroads G-058296, RJ G-064289, houses G-062287, house at G-071284, BORGO CARSO G-073263, Crossroads G-039292. OP 3rd Plat B Co 805 TD Bn adjusted Cn Co, 135 RCT (Inf), on enemy personnel at F-974346 covering area very well and starting fire.
- April 20- 1st Plat B Co fired 360 rnds HE harassing fire at RJ's G-029313, G-043311, G-013304, G-052298, G-049279, G-039292, G-045303 and on 88 Park G-048294. Rcn OP's adjusted fire of 125 FA Bn on vehicles around house at F-99833379 with good effect, 185 FA on vehicles and foot troops at G-00523288, and fired 160 FA Bn on stationary tank at F-90953214 getting 3 direct hits.
- April 21- 1st Plat B Co 601 TD Bn fired 420 rnds HE harassing fire on: woods G-010312, Crossroads G-029313, G-045303, 88 Park G-048294, crossroads G-058296, house G-063287, BORGO CARSO G-074262, cross roads G-074262 G-074255, G-033298. 3rd Plat A Co 701st TD Bn fired 10 rnds at KO'ed tank north of ISOLA BELLA, which was being used as an OP and Machine Pistol position G-022271 getting 3 direct hits. A Co supported attack of 3rd Bn 168 RCT in their attack in the 133 RCT sector.

- April 22- 1st Plat B Co fired 450 rnds harassing fire on: Crossroads G-074255, BORGIO CARSO G-074263, Crossroads G-049279, Crossroads G-039292, 88 Park G-048294, Crossroads G-033298, woods G-026296, G-029313, G043280 along PINK AVE G-039291 - G-049278. 3rd Plat Rcn Co OP at F-972261 adjusted fire of 185 FA on house at G-03123135 behind which a scout car had driven. House demolished completely and scout car did not drive out. A Co continued support of 3rd Bn 168 RCT in their attack in the 133 RCT sector.
- April 23- 1st Plat B Co fired 384 rnds HE harassing fire during night from F-975221 at: G-020312, G-023319, G-018307, G-030300, G-026297, G-032298, G-041289 G-039292, G-050278, G-062275, G-074263. 1st Plat C Co fired 40 rnds at suspected enemy OP at F-982335 from positions at F-950283, F-945281, getting several direct hits.
- April 24- 1st Plat B Co fired from F-975221, 400 rnds HE harassing fire on: RJ G-058296, woods G-044286, house G-047279, houses G-063287, crossroads G-029312, woods G-026297, RJ G-062275, BORGIO CARSO G-074263. 9 M-10's A Co relieved from supporting attack of 3rd Bn 168 RCT. 3rd Plat A Co 701 TD moved to G-022282, G-026278, G-025275, G-027276 to support 133 RCT which took over 3rd Bn 168 RCT sector. 3 M-10's A Co remained in position to support the 3rd Bn of 168 RCT. 2 guns B Co moved from G-028266, G-036259 to G-039267, G-038271, to support 133 RCT.
- April 25- 1st Plat B Co fired 400 rnds harassing fire from btry position F-975221 at: MONACO WOODS G-009312, houses G-032304, KRAUT WOODS G-027296, RJ G-032298, houses G-049279, houses G-050278, PILLBOX WOODS G-041280, BELLEAU WOODS G-044286, during night. 1 Section 1st Plat C Co fired 100 rnds adjusted fire from F-950283 - F-943282 at road net and houses via F-982329, F-984328 in support of Plat raid by 135 RCT. 1 section 3rd Plat C Co moved to firing positions on Hill F-968303, in support of Plat raid by 135 RCT, returned to support position at F-965295 at dawn. 3rd Plat A Co 701 TD adjusted gun positions to cover wider front with increased fields of fire.
- April 26- A Co Plat Comdr completed reconnaissance for relief of C Co night 27/28 April 1944.
- April 27- Rcn OP #1 (F-963276) adjusted fire of 175 FA on enemy arty at F-990347, neutralizing target. OP #1 adjusted fire of 185 FA on enemy inf at G-020318, resulting in well covered target area. A Co completed relief of C Co.
- April 28- 2nd Plat B Co fired 400 rnds HE at: Woods G-008313, RJ G-006307, house G-014312, RJ G-028305, DETROIT JUNCTION, RJ - G-039291, 88 Park, and RJ G-049279. Rcn OP #2 adjusted fire of 634th FA on enemy personnel at F-98233538. Enemy personnel seen leaving target area. OP #2 adjusted fire of 125 FA on enemy track vehicle at F-983344. Vehicle moved into draw. OP #2 also adjusted fire of 185 FA on enemy personnel at G-020318 neutralizing target.
- April 29- 2nd Plat B Co fired 260 rnds HE harassing fires at following coords: G-033298, RJ G-039291, G-049293, and houses at G-049279, G-063287, G-058271, G-074282, G-077276. Rcn OP #2 adjusted fire of 185 FA Bn on enemy command car at G-00783311. Command car pulled behind house and house was demolished. 2nd Plat A Co 701 TD adjusted fire of 151 FA on about 1 Co of enemy Inf that was dug in at MONACO (G-008297) causing several direct on houses.

April 30- Rcn OP#2 adjusted fire of the 185 FA Bn on enemy infantry in draw near house located at F-99153381 at 1140B hrs, and at 1225 hrs, enemy infantry assembled in this spot again and OP directed fire. Several casualties were observed in both cases, and enemy personnel ran from the draw.

Note: Rcn Co manned four OP's during this period.
(1) F-963276, (2) F972261, (3) B-020278, (4) G-030235.

For the BATTALION COMMANDER:


JAMES C. GRIMES
Captain, FA.,
Adjutant.