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BY AUTHORITY OF TAG 1-1-5

HEADQUARTERS  
45TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 45, U. S. ARMY

5 July 1944

Dup  
11

17 June 44  
Date Initials

SUBJECT: Battle Report. JUN 44

TO.....: Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO 464, U S Army (Thru Channels)

MAP REFERENCES: Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 158 - 150 - 149

PERIOD COVERED: 1 June 1944 to 30 June 1944.

**PART I - SUMMARY OF OPERATION**

1. June 1944 found this Battalion generally in the area east of CAMPOLEONE providing anti - tank defense and assault fire for the 45th Infantry Division on the drive toward ROME from the ANZIO BEACHHEAD. In general the tactical plan was: A company of TD's in support of each of the two Infantry Regiments on the line, and one TD company in reserve. TD's also supported Tanks in respective Infantry sectors. Reconnaissance Company established OP's, conducted artillery fire, made road reconnaissance, removed mines, and kept liaison with Infantry Battalions.

2. During the early morning hours of 4 June 1944 the Germans started pulling out and the "Rush to ROME" began. That night the Battalion went into position southwest of ROME on the south bank of the TIBER RIVER. The following morning the Battalion crossed the TIBER RIVER and continued in support of the INFANTRY until the Battalion went into rest bivouac on 7th June 1944 northwest of ROME.

3. On 18 June 1944 the Battalion moved to NETTUNO and then on 20 June 1944 moved to vicinity of BATTIPAGLIA. Upon arrival at BATTIPAGLIA Battalion relieved from assignment FIFTH ARMY and assigned to AFHQ, attached to SEVENTH ARMY for plans and training, and SOS for administration and supply. However, this Battalion is still working with the 45th Infantry Division.

4. Amphibious training started 25th June 1944 and continued throughout the remainder of the month.

**PART II - 1200B 01 June 1944 to 1200B 02 June 1944**

1. 1st platoon "A" Company plus two M-8's of Reconnaissance Company in support of 157th Infantry on mission in the 36th Infantry Division sector.

2. "B" Company fired assault fire on strong points and houses vicinity of 880412, 887427, 881412, expending a total of 136 rounds on five missions.

3. "C" Company remained in Battalion reserve.

4. "A" Company(-) continued support of tanks and Infantry in 179th sector.

5. Battalion Command Post at 894375.

6. Reconnaissance Company maintained OP's and liaison with Infantry Battalions

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PART III - 1200 02 June 1944 to 1200 03 June 1944

1. 3rd platoon "A" company in support of tanks in attack of 179th and 180th Infantry on high ground vicinity of 891415 and 896415. 2nd platoon "A" company still with 157th Infantry moving toward GENZANO, and 1st platoon "A" Company in reserve.
2. 1st platoon "B" Company supporting 180th and 135th Infantry. One M-10 damaged by artillery fire.
3. One platoon of "C" Company in support of 2nd Battalion 135th Infantry objective being 870428.
4. Reconnaissance Company maintained OP's conducted artillery fire and maintained liaison with Infantry Battalions. Fired artillery missions on enemy tanks and vehicles with good effect - dispersing vehicles and tanks, burning one, and allowing Infantry to take PW's. Pioneer platoon picked up 5 teller mines on road reconnaissance.

PART IV - 1200B 03 June 1944 to 1200B 04 June 1944

1. "A" Company lost a 1/4 Ton on a mine (driver injured, 1 Officer and EM killed). Company continues support mission.
2. "B" Company destroyer hit a mine (recovered). Company continues mission with 180th Infantry on advance.
3. "C" Company expended 78 rounds on enemy houses vicinity 857407.
4. Reconnaissance Company maintained OP's. Pioneer platoon swept road for mines ( 873407 and 879406). One Reconnaissance Company platoon working with 180th Inf.

PART V - 1200B 04 June 1944 to 1200B 05 June 1944

1. One platoon "A" Company with 157th Infantry moving toward ALBANO and 2nd platoon "A" Company supporting 179th Infantry.
2. "B" Company supporting 180th Infantry.
3. "C" Company following "A" and "B" Companies.
4. Reconnaissance Company has one platoon working with 180th Infantry on road reconnaissance. 28 PW's captured. One M-8 from 2nd platoon hit 3 teller mines causing 3 casualties (7005540).
5. Battalion Command Post at 702534.

PART VI - 1200B 05 June 1944 to 1200B 06 June 1944

1. Battalion Command Post 650615.
2. "A" Company took up indirect fire position south of TIBER RIVER.
3. "B" Company crossed TIBER RIVER and took anti-tank position on Beachhead perimeter.

BATTLE REPORT (CONT'D)

PART VI - 1200B 05 June to 1200B 06 June 1944 (cont'd)

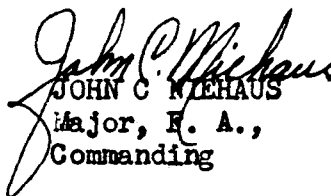
4. "C" Company took up anti-tank positions to cover "B" Company's movement into position and then assembled at 655325.
5. Reconnaissance company reconnoitered flanks of Beachhead line, established OP's and took 4 PW's.

PART VII - 06 June to 30 June 1944

1. Battalion assembled vicinity (629645) on 07 June 1944, and remained in rest until 18 June 1944 when it moved overland to NETTUNO. 20th June 1944 wheeled vehicles went overland and track vehicles by boat to vicinity BATTIPAGLIA.
2. Effective 21 June 1944 Battalion assigned AFHQ, attached SOS for administration and supply and 7th Army for training.
3. 25 June 1944 amphibious training started.

PART VIII - ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATION CHANGES.

1. 09 June 1944, Captain RICHARD B. WILDER assumed command of Reconnaissance Company. 1st. Lt. JAMES G. GAMBLE assigned to Company C as a platoon commander.
2. 16 June 1944, Major General WILLIAM W EAGLES, 45th Infantry Division Commanding General, presented combat awards to members of this battalion at a formal ceremony.
3. June 27, 1944, Capt EDWARD T. NAUGHTEN, was assigned to Company C, as a Company Officer. 1st Lt PAUL W STEPHANI, was appointed Act'g Special Service Officer.
4. 30 June 1944. A rest camp for enlisted men opened at AGROPOLI, ITALY. 250 enlisted men of the battalion attended for a four day period. The rest camps at NAPLES and SORRENTO, ITALY, for officers were maintained during the month of June.
5. Supplies during this period offered no problem. The morale of officers and enlisted men was excellent.

  
JOHN C. NIEHAUS  
Major, E. A.,  
Commanding

ANNEX "A" Battle Casualty Summary  
ANNEX "B" Battle Report Overlay  
3 incls  
Intelligence Summary  
Operations Journals  
(1) Messages.

INF 10101

BATTLE CASUALTY SUMMARY FOR PERIOD 1 JUNE to 30 JUNE 1944

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>CO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Lloyd A. Bentz	36294121	PFC	A	1 June 44	Wounded
Orville E. Vosburgh	31095985	Pvt	Hq Co	1 June 44	Wounded
Robert W. Albro	35111532	Sgt	B	2 June 44	Wounded
Ernest P. Santangelo	01822060	2d Lt	B	2 June 44	Wounded
Fred A. Merritt	01823040	2d Lt	B	2 June 44	Wounded
Angelo P. Nicolini	01823337	2d Lt	A	3 June 44	Killed
William A. Broeking	36303867	S/Sgt	A	3 June 44	Killed
Roger E. Avant	20832647	S/Sgt	B	3 June 44	Wounded
Thomas W. DeMayo	36722440	T/5	B	3 June 44	Wounded
Homer E. Fair Jr.	35713109	PFC	B	3 June 44	Wounded
Pvt John Russo	20204297	Pvt	Hq Co	3 June 44	Wounded
Robert L. Grimm	37655317	Cpl	B	3 June 44	Wounded
Melvin H. Hand	35292438	T/4	Rcn Co	4 June 44	Wounded
Mason G. Boyd	33156369	Cpl	B	4 June 44	Wounded
Barnard Bornstein	01822230	2d Lt	Rcn Co	4 June 44	Wounded

HEADQUARTERS  
645TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO 45, U S Army  
1 July, 1944.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Summary, 45th Division Sector  
1 June to 30 June 1944.  
Annex to Battle Report for June 1944  
Maps: Italy 1/50,000 and 1/100,000

Ey front lines during period (see Overlay).

For two days, the ey succeeded in keeping our forces occupied in the CAMPOLEONE sector, using strongpoints and mobile artillery. On the third day the ey position was flanked on their left and they started a hasty withdrawal. On the fourth day, adjacent units on our right had reached Rome, and on the fifth day, the 45th Div was across the TIBER southwest of ROME, with the enemy in full flight and no contact being made. Only scattered MG fire and isolated SP fire was received on the march to ROME. Ey used aircraft at night against roads and troop areas.

On the sixth day, the 45th Div was withdrawn from the line.

Ey units opposing Div sector (from left to right):

1 June to 4 June: I, II, and III Bns 11 Para Regt, I and II Bns 146 IR, I and II Bns 147 IR, Sudwest Sturm Bn, 4th Engr Bn, 192 Rcn Bn, III Bn 12 Para Regt, 756 IR. No organized resistance after 4 June.

Armor reported during period:

- 1 June - 3, plus reports of groups of unest number.
- 2 June - 15 definite, plus two groups of unest number.
- 3 June - None reported.
- 4 June - None reported.
- 5 June - None reported.
- 6 June - None reported.

For the Commanding Officer:

JAMES H. LEGENDRE, JR  
Captain, FA  
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