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HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464 U.S. Army

* S E C R E T
* Per Auth: CO 701st TD
* Initials:
* Date: 10 May 1945

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Operations Report.

TO : Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru Channels)

1. Submitted herewith Operations Report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion for the period 1 - 30 April 1945, inclusive, in compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated 10 March 1943.
2. This Operations Report is taken from the Unit Journal and Unit Diary and supporting documentary evidence is attached thereto.
3. Operations Report covering period through 31 March 1945 was submitted previously.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

John E. Dooley
JOHN E. DOOLEY
1st Lt, FA
Adj

1 Inclosure:
Opns Rpt w/allied Papers

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OPERATIONS REPORT OF THE 701st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO

30 APRIL 1945.

Location of Troops on 1 April 1945:

Battalion CP.....	L557150
Battalion Trains.....	L581118
Reconnaissance Company.....	L710219
4th Recon. Platoon (3 81mm Mortars) ..	L706231
Company "A".....	L516129
1st Platoon (1st Section).....	L489151
1st Platoon (2nd Section).....	L507137
2nd Platoon.....	L505138
3rd Platoon.....	L553195
Company "B".....	L607252
1st Platoon (1st Section).....	L606254
1st Platoon (2nd Section).....	L601244
2nd Platoon.....	L566219
3rd Platoon (1st Section).....	L609252
3rd Platoon (2nd Section).....	L609253
Company "C".....	L593235
1st Platoon.....	L59182367
2nd Platoon.....	L60472359
3rd Platoon.....	L59262348
751 Tank Bn. (B, C & D Co's Operationally attached)	
"B" Company, 751 Tank Bn.....	L517129
1st Platoon (2 Tanks).....	L493110
1st Platoon (1 Tank).....	L488143
1st Platoon (1 Tank).....	L488145
2nd Platoon (3 Tanks).....	L530170
2nd Platoon (2 Tanks).....	L516176
3rd Platoon (3 Tanks).....	L507165
3rd Platoon (2 Tanks).....	L499166
"C" Company, 751 Tank Bn.....	L548168
1st Platoon.....	L565227
2nd Platoon.....	L572207
3rd Platoon.....	L553195

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Location of Troops on 1 April 1945: (Cont'd)

"D" Company, 751 Tank Bn	
1st Platoon (3 Tanks)	L535180
1st Platoon (2 Tanks)	L537182
2nd Platoon (3 Tanks)	L527176
2nd Platoon (2 Tanks)	L531177
3rd Platoon (3 Tanks)	L539183
3rd Platoon (2 Tanks)	L510185

As the period opened the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 751 Tank Battalion were in defensive positions along the entire right of the IV Corps front. Company "C" of the Battalion was in indirect fire positions under operational control of the 424th F.A. Group. Company "B" was under operational control of the 751st Tank Battalion (FORCE MADDEN). Reconnaissance Company was attached to II Corps, sub attached to the 1st Armored Division and in Infantry positions with the 1st Tank Battalion (dismounted). "E", "C", and "D" Cos. of the 751 Tank Battalion were under control of Headquarters, 701st T.D. Bn. (FORCE REDDING).

Reconnaissance Company reverted to Battalion control on the 1st and was moved to the SILLA area (L593136), where the Company was put on their vehicles for the first time in several months. Vehicular and radio maintenance, and the preparation of their vehicles for combat occupied their time for the next ten days. The long winter period as Infantry had resulted in the fact that their vehicles had not had proper preventative maintenance and a long period of work was needed to refit their vehicles for combat.

For the other units of the Battalion the FORCE MADDEN - FORCE REDDING tactical grouping held until the 9th of April, when all reverted to parent unit control. During this period, positions of units

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remained essentially the same, with some few exceptions, and normal observed and unobserved, direct and indirect fires were carried out from static defensive fire positions. While these activities were being carried out, plans were being made for the prospective offensive operation soon to take place. The Battalion (and the 751 Tank Bn) was to be in direct support of the 10th U.S. Mountain Infantry Division (U.S. IV Corps) in the Fifth Army attempt to break out of the Apennines into the RO River Valley. The Division Commander had decided that one Tank Company and one Tank Destroyer Company would be attached to each Infantry Regiment for the initial stages of the operation. The attachments (to take effect 1200 hrs D-1) as follows :

85th Mt. Inf. Regt.	"B" Company, 701st T.D. Bn.
	"E" Company, 751st Tank Bn.
86th Mt. Inf. Regt.	"C" Company, 701st T.D. Bn.
	"C" Company, 751st Tank Bn.
87th Mt. Inf. Regt.	"A" Company, 701st T.D. Bn.
	"A" Company, 751st Tank Bn.

By mutual agreement between the 701st and 751st Commanding Officers it was further agreed that each Tank Destroyer Company would send one Platoon to its corresponding Tank Company, and each Tank Company would send one Platoon to its corresponding Tank Destroyer Company. This was done to bolster the firepower of the Tank Company with the 3" gun and to give the TD's the benefit of the automatic weapons of the medium tank. The communications problems in this were nil, due to the fact that both units were equipped with the SCR 500 radio series (a mutual exchange and alignment of crystals was made).

The Infantry Regimental Commanders were to send one Tank or TD Company with each assault Infantry Battalion. This gave six armored

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Companies with the six assault Infantry Battalions. None of the Armor was to be held in reserve with the exception of the 701st Reconnaissance Company and "D" Company of the 751st Tank Bn. These two Companies were to be attached to a formation known as Task Force PURSUIT under command of the 3rd Bn. of the 86th Infantry Regiment. This force was to be activated upon Division order and was to be used to exploit any major breakthrough made during the attack.

The period 9 - 12 April was spent in readying for the operation. The Tank - Tank Destroyer Platoon exchange was made, and on the 12th all Companies moved to their assembly areas for the attack. At 1800 hrs 12th April, the dispositions were as follows:

Bn C.P.	L590238
"A" Company	L619245
"B" Company	L607252
1st Platoon	L566219
2nd Platoon, 1st Section	L606254
2nd Platoon, 2nd Section	L609252
3rd Platoon	L572223
"C" Company (- 1 Gun)	L637237
(1 Gun, "C" Company	L602243
Reconnaissance Company	L603237

(The one "C" Company gun at L602243 was for firing "star" shells over given target areas at night for airplanes. This air-ground cooperation in night bombing was used several times with success during the operation).

The scheduled attack by the 10th Mountain Division began at 0700 hours 14 April. All Gun Companies of the Battalion moved in support. Enemy minefields and demolitions held up progress for most of the initial day.

The attack progressed slowly. By the 15th TOLE had been taken, and elements were moving slowly north against scattered resistance.

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Company "A" engaged three enemy tanks this date, and put one of them out of action. Again on the following day, "A" Company destroyed another enemy tank, and Company "C" destroyed 2 anti-tank guns.

The 85th Regiment and Company "B", 701st Tank Destroyer Bn, secured the left flank against counterattack as our attack progressed. This left "B" Company well in our rear for the next few days, and difficulty was experienced in maintaining communications. On the 18th however, "B" Company was detached from the Battalion and attached to C.C."A" of the 1st Armored Division. This Company was destined to remain detached for the remainder of the operation.

The breakthrough into the PO Valley was made on April 20th. Two Infantry Battalions supported by "A" and "C" Companies were out of the Apennines and at 1300 hours the Reconnaissance Company passed through with orders to cut Highway # 9. This was affected by 1400 hours. On this day, Company "C" destroyed one MK IV and one 150 mm gun. Innumerable prisoners were taken. ("B" Company, with C.C."A", destroyed 2 S/P guns in the L6940 grid square at 191200B). Battalion dispositions at 201800B April were :

En CP	751506
"A" Company	752255
"C" Company	733567
1st Platoon	741563
"B" Company	
1st Platoon	680399
2nd Platoon	683396
Reconnaissance Company	772546
1st Platoon	777548
2nd Platoon	778543
3rd Platoon	737563
4th Platoon	774552

The Divisional objective for the next day was to secure the BOLEPORTO bridges intact. "A" and "C" Companies were to support the

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advance of the 2nd Bn. of the 86th Regiment. Reconnaissance Company was to provide a reconnaissance screen for the divisional advance. At 0910 hours one M-8 and one M-20 armored car of the Reconnaissance Company were destroyed by enemy A/T fire. The Platoon Leader of the First Platoon was killed, and his Platoon Sergeant was seriously wounded in action. The Company was forced to withdraw and choose another route of advance.

Enemy resistance suddenly collapsed in this area. With Reconnaissance Company in the lead, the 2nd Bn. of the 86th Infantry (motorized) protected in column by the guns of "A" Company moved along the roads to BOMPORTO at speeds approximating 30 M.P.H. Elements of Rcn Co arrived at BOMPORTO at approximately 1600 hrs., somewhat in advance of the main column, and secured both bridges intact. In the village, however, the 2nd Platoon of the Company became involved in a street fight with German Infantry. One M-8 Armored Car was hit and burned by an enemy bazooka and the Platoon Sergeant was killed. The Platoon was forced to withdraw back across the canal bridge until Infantry and TD's came forward to secure the town. At 211800B April, dispositions of the Battalion were :

Bn CP	L 751506
"A" Company	L 655753
Reconnaissance Company	L 655753
"C" Company	
1st Platoon	L 714603
2nd Platoon	L 747603
3rd Platoon	L 734595

Advances to the North continued the next morning. The 10th Division attacked regiments abreast, the 86th Infantry (Route "B") and the 87th Infantry (Route "A"). Company "A" supported the 86th

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and Company "C" supported the 87th. Reconnaissance Company provided a screen for Route "A". Objective for the day was CALATTA (F5913) on the PO River. Resistance was slight and Company "C" reached the town of S. BENEDETTO (F5811) about 2000 hours in the evening. The column proceeding along Route "B" was not able to reach objective that night but elements of the Reconnaissance Company arrived at CALATTA at 0900 hrs. Road blocks were immediately established along all routes of approach by Companies "A" and "C". Enemy resistance that remained in the area was mopped up.

Infantry units of the 10th Division immediately crossed the river. Companies "A" and "C" supported this operation by direct fire. The crossing of the PO River by Tanks and Tank Destroyers, however, presented a most difficult problem, due to the fact that there were no bridges available. It was not until the 25th of April that elements of this Battalion were able to cross the River to support the Infantry bridgehead. Reconnaissance Company crossed on an L-1 treadway bridge about 251300B April and joined the 86th Infantry Regiment in their advance to the North (objective VERONA). This treadway bridge, however, was not a suitable means for the M-10s to use in crossing, and a captured ferry was utilized in ferrying the Destroyer Companies across. The progress was slow and the method tedious but by 260100B April Company "A" and seven M-10s of "C" Company had completed the crossing. These Destroyers then set about to carry out their assigned mission of flank protection advance. Elements of the Reconnaissance Company were in VERONA with the 3rd Bn. 86 Infantry at 260100B April. Mopping up by all elements continued throughout the day, and at 1600hrs

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Reconnaissance and "C" Companies moved to BUSSOLENCO (F5458) to occupy and defend the town for the night.

The Battalion assembled at 0800 hrs the following morning and moved in support of the advance of the 87th Infantry Regiment along the shores of Lago di Gardo. Minor resistance was met during the day, mostly from 88 mm dual-purpose A/T - A/T guns, of which Company "A" destroyed two and Recon Company destroyed one during the days operations. Forward elements of the Battalion reached F4578 at 2000 hours on the 27th when relieved by elements of the 751 Tank Battalion who continued in the advance.

(During this entire period, Company "B" of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion had been detached from the Battalion and had been in support of the attacking 1st Armored Division. The Battalion was unable to maintain contact with this Company throughout the greater part of the April operations. Company "B" on the 28th of the month was attached to the 81st Reconnaissance Squadron and on this date entered SONLINO (770510).

Extensive demolitions at F5696 and tunnel destruction in this area prevented further armored advance in a northerly direction. An engineer estimate of the time to construct a passable route was 7 days. In the afternoon of the 28th, Infantry units of the 10th Division made an amphibious operation (by means of "DUKW's") around the demolished road area and proceeded north. The Gun Companies of the Battalion supported this operation by direct fire. When the advancing Infantry was out of effective support range of the Destroyer's guns, the Companies were withdrawn and road blocks were set up throughout the Divisional area. Dispositions remained essentially the same throughout

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the remainder of the period. On the 30th the Battalion prepared to move to vicinity of RIVA (A551044) and TOROLES (A575025) by ferry north on Lake GARDA, and thence to continue to the North in the direction of the Brenner and RESLA passes to AUSTRIA in support of the 10th Infantry Division, which was assembling to attack.

The last reported location of Company "B" was TREVIGLIO (K5668) on the 29th of April.

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The month had been a period of continual movement. A great valley had been crossed as the Fifth Army advanced from the Appenines to the Alps. A major water obstacle had been crossed, and the German armies in Italy had virtually been destroyed. The spring offensive had been a gratifying success.

For the Officers and Men of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion this month meant the completion of 35 long, arduous months of overseas service. This was perhaps the most singly important month of them all to us, for at long last the end of the European War seemed in sight. Elements of this Battalion were among the first American ground forces to engage the Nazi enemy in this war. It was a gratifying thought that the end was so near; and that the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion had been a part of that Fifth Army whose privilege it had been to assist in the destruction of the enemy in ITALY.

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Location of Units at the end of the period (302400) :

Bn. C.P.	F 525914
Bn. Trains	F 541939
Rcn Company	F 512888
"A" Company	F 525915
1st Platoon	F 512888
2nd Platoon	F 538951
3rd Platoon	F 535945
"B" Company	K 5668
"C" Company	F 535936
1st Platoon	F 441671
2nd Platoon	F 555956
3rd Platoon	F 555956

Albert B. Morrison

ALBERT B. MORRISON
Captain, Inf
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S-1 ANNEX TO OPERATIONS REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 - 30 APRIL 1945

I. a. CASUALTIES:

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>				
*	Sgt	Russell Simmons	34160213	B	4 Apr 45	LIA
*	Tec 4	Lonnie W. Phillips	15045811	B	11 Apr 45	LWA
*	Sgt	John J. Carroll	31029681	B	15 Apr 45	LWA
	1st Lt	Lawrence V. Burke	01176904	C	15 Apr 45	LIA
	Tec 4	Charles H. Scott	33090791	B	15 Apr 45	LWA
	Pfc	Raymond R. Sturm	33580281	B	15 Apr 45	LWA
*	1st Lt	John NMI Hudson	01307549	C	17 Apr 45	LWA
	T/Sgt	Howard J. Spaulding	35155475	Hq	17 Apr 45	LWA
	Tec 5	Noble H. Midkiff	35482495	Hq	17 Apr 45	LWA
	Pvt	Joseph H. Metzeder	37721341	Hq	17 Apr 45	KIA
*	Tec 4	Carlos Snell Jr	34359063	B	18 Apr 45	LWA
	Pfc	Claude A. Crowder	35260250	B	18 Apr 45	LWA
	Tec 5	Robert E. Leasure	37328661	C	18 Apr 45	LWA
	Pfc	Willard J. Cummins	15047888	Rcn	18 Apr 45	LWA
*	Pvt	John T O'Rourke	33026617	C	18 Apr 45	LWA
	Pfc	Rex NMI Meredith	6669903	A	19 Apr 45	LIA
*	Sgt	Robert Dunham	33272551	C	19 Apr 45	LIA
*	Tec 5	Eugene W. Baker	36242848	B	19 Apr 45	LWA
*	Capt	John NMI Hudson	01307549	C	20 Apr 45	LWA
	2d Lt	Joe H. Patterson	01999106	Rcn	21 Apr 45	KIA
	S/Sgt	Anthony G. Schepici	20123378	Rcn	21 Apr 45	KIA
	Tec 5	J. T. (IO) Dial	34194239	Rcn	21 Apr 45	KIA
	Pfc	Norman Vigderhouse	33193261	Rcn	21 Apr 45	KIA
	Pfc	Clayton NMI Anderson	35262612	Rcn	21 Apr 45	MIA
	Pfc	John M. Wiwi	35168871	Rcn	21 Apr 45	SWA
	Sgt	Clyde T. Gephart	33261645	Rcn	21 Apr 45	SWA
	Pfc	Cecil W. Thompson	15010945	Rcn	21 Apr 45	SWA
	Pvt	Eldridge C. King	34914162	Rcn	21 Apr 45	LIA
	S/Sgt	Julius J. Fussell	34208886	C	21 Apr 45	SWA
	Sgt	Alfred L. Parks	20346573	C	21 Apr 45	LIA
	Tec 5	Deloss B. Morgan	37449685	C	21 Apr 45	SWA
	Pfc	Kenneth D. Coleman	35623822	C	21 Apr 45	LWA
	Tec 5	Gordon B. Bernhard	35378260	Rcn	21 Apr 45	LIA
	Tec 5	Donald L. Carrington	35152806	Rcn	21 Apr 45	LWA
	Tec 5	Dallas A. Holcomb	33120105	Rcn	21 Apr 45	LWA
*	Cpl	Alexander Crawford	31244315	C	21 Apr 45	LWA
*	Pfc	Ralph D. Higgins	38341678	C	21 Apr 45	LWA
	2d Lt	John R. Foster	02001723	Rcn	22 Apr 45	LWA
	Tec 5	Marshall R. Nuzum	37205973	B	22 Apr 45	LIA
*	Pfc	Sterling C. Brown	35132318	C	22 Apr 45	LWA
*	Pvt	Claude N. Gilliland	33157667	B	22 Apr 45	LWA
	Sgt	George L. Baldwin	15047931	Rcn	23 Apr 45	LWA
	Sgt	James E. Upchurch	34134349	Rcn	23 Apr 45	LWA
	Pfc	Herman Adams	15055053	Rcn	23 Apr 45	LWA
	Pfc	Roy O Peterson	34053954	Rcn	23 Apr 45	LWA
	Sgt	Tom T. Gunn	34147389	Rcn	23 Apr 45	LWA
	S/Sgt	Oscar E. Swanson	36185161	Rcn	23 Apr 45	LWA
	2d Lt	Earl L. Urban	01999201	C	23 Apr 45	KIA
	Pfc	Arnold A. Asling	37519651	B	26 Apr 45	LIA
*	Capt	John NMI Hudson	01307549	C	27 Apr 45	LIA
*	NOT HOSPITALIZED					

II AWARDS:

A. Purple Heart:

S/Sgt	Herston Childers	35213690	C	per GO 25 Hq 1st AD
Cpl	Mel B. Kensor	16373794	A	per GO 25 Hq 1st AD
Pfc	Albert B. Crawford Jr	34133988	Rcn	per GO 35 Hq 1st AD
Sgt	George L. Baldwin	15047931	Rcn	

III REPLACEMENTS:

During the period the Battalion received two (2) officers and eight (8) enlisted men as replacements.

IV ROTATION AND TEMPORARY DUTY:

During the period twenty five (25) enlisted men returned to the U. S. on rotation and eleven (11) enlisted men returned to the U. S. on Temporary Duty.

S-2 ANNEX

EQUIPMENT CAPTURED OR DESTROYED BY THE 701ST TANK
DESTROYER BATTALION DURING APRIL 1945

"A" Company	8	1	2	1	19	2	100	185
"B" Company	1	1	3		2			
"C" Company	3				3	2	3	7
Res. Company					1			15
	TANKS ALL CLASSES	SP'S ALL CLASSES			A/T GUNS		ARMY PIECES	VEHICLES ALL CLASSES

S-3 ANNEX TO OPERATIONS REPORT

Vehicular losses through enemy action sustained by the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion during the month of April 1945 :

GMC-M10	B1	K2 (b)	K1 (b)	/	K1	K1 (175th)	C2
M10-AC	K1 (b)	/	/	K1 (b)	/	/	K1
M20-AC	/	/	/	K1 (b)	/	/	/
HT-M3	/	/	/	/	/	B2 (110th)	/
/	buyska	tiger	panther	75mm	mine	shelling	other

Legend ~

F-24 Pw
 C-48 Pw
 K-destroyed
 (b)-burned

S-4 ANNEX TO OPERATIONS REPORT

ammunition expenditures during monthly period (approximate) :

3", High Explosive	5104
3", High Explosive (reduced charge)	2046
3", Smoke	65
3", Time	0
3", Star	457
3", APC	763
3", T-105	0
Total	<u>8735</u>
.37mm High Explosive	635
.37mm APC	220
Total	<u>855</u>
.30 Caliber	12500
.50 Caliber	2060
Grenades, Hand (HE)	86
Grenades, Yellow Smoke	110