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HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 251, c/o Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

Auth: TAG
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24 September 1943.

① AS 314.7-701st Tank Destroyer Bn. (24 Sep 43)

701-682

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

1. In compliance with the requirements of paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated March 10, 1943 the following operations report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion covering the period 8 November 1942 to 11 May 1943 is herewith submitted.
2. The operations covered in this report are statements from the Unit and Staff Journal, the Battalion diary, and of Officers concerned; and supporting evidence for said statements is on file in the records of this Battalion.
3. This report was prepared by the Intelligence Section of the Battalion.

ALBERT B. MORRISON
Captain, 701st Tank Destroyer Bn.
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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
RESTRICTED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Algeron Colby
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *June*

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701st TANK DESTROYER
BATTALION

8 November 1942
to
10 May 1943

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PREFACE

On December 15, 1941 the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated at Fort Knox, Kentucky, with Lt. Colonel Chauncey C. Benson in command. The Battalion was, upon activation, attached to the 1st Armored Division. The period from December 15 to February 20 was spent in organizing the integral companies and in the equipping and training of replacements which arrived from the AERTC and Camp Wheeler, Georgia. From March 1st to April 1st the Battalion participated in problems staged on the Fort Knox Military Reservation, and on the 1st of April the Battalion was alerted for movement. Movement orders came, and with the 1st Armored Division, the Battalion wheeled vehicles left Fort Knox on the 6th of April for Fort Dix, New Jersey (track vehicles by train). The overland trip lasted four days and the period was marked by continuous rain, high winds, and extremely cold weather. The next two months were spent in range firing and in preparation for overseas movement.

The Battalion entrained on the 31st of May for Jersey City, crossed the river to the Port of New York, and there loaded on the U.S.S. Thomas H. Barry. The transport sailed in convey for Northern Ireland via Halifax. The trip was marked by many cases of diarrhea, acute sea-sickness, and a "12 on 12 off" deck shift. The arrival, on June 11th, at Belfast was greeted by shouts of the dock workers clamoring for American cigarettes and candy. Upon debarkation the Battalion was split up and the companies sent to separate bivouac areas: Reconnaissance Company to Crossgar; En. Hq., Hq. Company, "C" Company, and Medical Detachment to Ballykinalar; "A" Company to Newcastle; "B" Company to Downpatrick - all in County Down.

On the 18th of June Major Harrison King assumed command of the Battalion.

A demonstration for the King and Queen of England was fired on the 29th of June. Corporal Stena, later killed in action in North Africa, performed in an impressive manner as gunner.

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From the 6th of August to the 8th of August the Battalion participated in the problem of Defiance along with the 3rd Battalion of the 13th Armored Regiment. The Battalion was attached to the British 61st Infantry Division under command of Brigadier Hawkins, and maneuvers were held around Ballymore and Ballyclare north.

On the 3rd of October Companies "B" and "C" and one platoon under Lt. Smith of Reconnaissance Company left their respective stations in Northern Ireland for destination unknown via Macclesfield, England. Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company, "A" Company and the Medical Detachment remained in Northern Ireland.

Errata —

1st sentence, last paragraph.

"B" Company left N.I. on 27 Sept. 1942.

"C" Company left N.I. on 30 Sept. 1942.

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