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SECRET

**UNIT REPORT
(After Action Report)**

NS: 3

From: 0124008 Aug 44
To : 3124008 Aug 44

Unit: 702nd Tank Destroyer Bn.
Date: 31 August 1944
Place:

Maps: G308, France, 1/50,000, 34/14 SW, 34/12 NW, 60/2, 60/A, 60/2, 80/3, 80/1, 80/4, 80/6, 80/2, 80/4, 90/4, 100/1, 100/5, 143



I. ENEMY:

a. 1 - 3 August. Action around Tessey. Enemy consisted of elements of the Second Panzer Division who fought very hard. Morale of foreign elements low (Poles and Czechs surrendered or deserted readily). Morale of German elements fair. Equipment consisted of Mark IV and Panther tanks, 75 and 88mm towed Anti-tank guns. German defensive positions were located on reverse slopes of a hill in front of Tessey, in such a manner that our tanks were exposed to direct fire as they came over the ridge. 88mm guns were also active on indirect missions, but with little effect. Mines were used in small numbers on the shoulders of main roads and at intersections of side roads and trails. All mines were teller mines. No booby traps were encountered.

b. 3 - 6 August. Action around Vire. Enemy consisted of 363rd Infantry Division, newly arrived in that area. Division contained some foreign elements. Morale varied greatly within regiments. As a whole, the 957th Regiment containing Alsatians and Poles resisted least, while the 999th in Vire itself put up a stiff resistance.

c. 7 - 17 August. Action around Baranton. The following enemy units were encountered: 116th Panzer, 10th SS Panzer, and the 344th Infantry. Also elements from several other Divisions, among them the 17th SS, the 21st Panzer, several Infantry and Artillery Units, and a March Battalion. The 10th SS was composed to a large extent of "Volkdeutsche", such as Poles, Russians, Hungarians, and Serbs. These people had been drafted into the SS, and surrendered readily. Equipment: 75mm Self propelled guns, some Mark IV's; some little artillery (6 105mm howitzers, 2 150mm Howitzers). About 10 - 20mm guns in the area, usually protected by two 20mm guns each. The SS's were sighted to fire along the roads at ranges from 200 to 800 yards, and were cleverly camouflaged.

d. 19 - 26 August. Action in area Verneuil, Freteuil, Conches, Neuville, Lebeuf. Elements of well over 20 different divisions and separate units encountered. Trouble caused mostly by the First SS and the 21st Panzer. Among the troops encountered were a Cossack Regiment and numerous Russians employed in small groups within German Divisions to take care of horse drawn vehicles. Equipment: Numerous Mark V's and IV's, usually employed in small groups. French Somua and Hotchkiss Tanks were used by the enemy, some of these tanks having rocket devices mounted on

top. Enemy morale and enemy tactics varied from excellent to pitiful. Prisoners were taken who showed an undiminished tautonic arrogance, while others surrendered at the first shot and spoke a complete chaos behind the German lines. While some tanks fought skillfully, entire columns of armored and thin skinned vehicles were caught bunched up bumper to bumper on the road, and were easily destroyed. There was only one instance of a deliberate mine field and booby traps.

29 - 31 August 1944: Operations north of SEINE River in Area Nantes, Bauvais, and St. Just. Enemy Units identified: 17th and 18th Caf. Equipment: Eight (8) Tanks, probably 75mm self propelled on Mark IV Chassis, but possibly Tigers attached to each Division. Artillery equipped with French 155 Howitzers. Ammunition very limited. Some SS's truck drawn. All other transport horse drawn. Morale poor. Unit completely disorganized.

2. Own Situation: The Battalion less two companies moved on cross country routes from vicinity of Villersbouden, Via Chevry-La Pasmeliere - Tessy sur Vire, following Second Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, Second Armored Division, morning of 1 August 1944. Outposted route with one platoon to cover movements of other Division Units. The Battalion less two companies made contact with the Second Battalion 66th Armored Regiment in the town of La Pasmeliere. Given mission of supporting attack by defense of flanks in tank attack on Tessy sur Vire. Elements of the 22nd Infantry Regiment assisted in drive. Attack began at 1500. Heavy shell fire and large number of tanks encountered. Company "A" assisted attack by destroying four Mark IV Tanks and two Mark V Tanks plus laying direct fire on machine gun and Infantry strong points. Upon occupation of Tessy sur Vire, Company "A" outposted the town. One M-10 out of action through maintenance faults; three casualties suffered. One M-8, Reconnaissance Company destroyed in enemy mine field while on mission to left flank.

Company "B" attached to the First Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, Second Armored Division assisted in attack of Tessy sur Vire on highway between that city and Villersbouden. Destroyed five Mark IV's and two Mark V's.

Battalion less one company (Company "C" attached to Combat Command "B", Second Armored Division) assembled in area two miles east of Villersbouden for reorganization 021500, August 1944.

Total enemy material destroyed: nine Mark IV's tanks; Seven Mark V Tanks; one enemy armored car; scout car; ammunition vehicle. 54 prisoners taken.

The Battalion less company "A" relieved control of CC "A", attached to Combat Command "B", 091930 August 1944. Moved to vicinity St Martin. Ordered to remain in Division Reserve prepared to rejoin tank attack on any of the three columns of CC "B", 4th August 1944.

Battalion less Company "A" remained in Assembly area under Division Reserve control until 6 August 1944.

August 6, 1944, the Battalion less one Company, and one Platoon Company "C" (with CC "B" advance guard) made road march to CC "B" from Curves, south to St Hillaire du Harcouet, east to Barenton. Little resistance encountered. Platoon Company "C" attached to Advance Guard destroyed two Mark V tanks.

From 8 August to 10 August 1944, Battalion less one Company placed anti-tank defense around CC "B" assembly area in vicinity of Barenton. Also assisted in local attacks on enemy closed in pockets in that vicinity.

Battalion less two companies attached to Division Reserve 11 August 1944. Company "A" attached to CC "A", Second Armored Division. Company "C" attached to CC "B", Second Armored Division. Company "B" continued on road block missions. Battalion on alert for movement throughout day.

The Battalion assembled for maintenance and reorganization in the vicinity of Barenton, 12 August 1944 through 17 August 1944.

Battalion less Company "A" (Attached to CC "A") moved 18 August 1944 from vicinity Barenton to vicinity of Sees placing road blocks on main roads leading into assembly area of CC "B".

Battalion less one Company on 19 August 1944 moved from vicinity of SEES in Division column by route Courteser and Pourcuvre to vicinity of St Anne.

Battalion less one company on 20 August 1944 moved from vicinity St Anne to vicinity of Boissy - les Perche in two columns. Assisted in drive on Verneuil. Direct fire laid on probable OP's at Infantry position. One enemy tank destroyed. Road blocks placed to defend assembly area of CC "B" from north and north west.

Movement from area vicinity of Grosbois 21 August 1944 to area vicinity Le Gros Macherel under command of CC "B". Company "C" attached to 67th Armored Regiment, Second Armored Division on left column. The Battalion provided road blocks on flanks assisting in advance of CC "B" toward objective. Company "B" destroyed one Mark IV and one machine gun nest.

22 August 1944, the Battalion less one company relieved from road blocks around Le Breteuil to assist in drive toward Les Ptes Bruyeres. Destroyed one Mark III and one half track vehicle.

23 to 25 August 1944, Battalion less one company assisted in drive forward of CC "B" toward Elbeuf. During this operation, Company "A" attached to CC "A" on left column destroyed one French Tank, three half track vehicles, four light reconnaissance vehicles, two supply trucks, two motorcycles, and captured two official sedans. During this operation, one M-10 was struck by an 88mm shell, two men killed, two wounded - vehicle still in operation. Also during this operation, Company "C" destroyed three Mark V tanks. Company "A" credited with three Mark V tanks and assisted in destruction of two Mark VI tanks. (These Mark VI tanks were fired upon both by Company "A" guns and 76mm guns mounted on Division tanks.)

Battalion to move by tactical groupings to vicinity of Pacy sur Eure for assembly (Company "A" attached to CC "A" - Company "B" attached to Division Reserve - Remainder of Battalion attached to CC "B". Route: Louviers, Acquigny, Les Planches, Fontaine, sous Jouy, Croisy - sur - Eure, Pacy sur Eure.)

27 to 28 August 1944: Reorganization and maintenance for half day. Alerted for movement to cross Seine River. Company "C" crossed Seine River 28/1/308 August, assembling vicinity of St Martin. Battalion less two companies remained in present location awaiting further orders.

29 August 1944, Battalion less two companies moved from vicinity Mare a Coulouvres across Seine at Rosny sur Seine on order of CC "B" to area two miles east of St Martin la Carriere. During day, Company "C" supported 41st Infantry Regiment and 99th Separate Infantry Battalion on attack north of Vetheuil. Company "B" placed road blocks at Chaussy to prevent enemy attack on left flank. Battalion assembled less one company in vicinity of Coats 2130B August prepared to continue attack at dawn.

30 - 30 August 1944, Battalion less Company "A" moved from Courte in right column CC "B" in attack north east. Company "A" attached to CC "A" in left column. Company "C" moved with 67th Armored Regiment to support column on flanks in event of enemy tank attacks. Battalion less two companies acting as rear guard for the right column. During this operation, Company "C" destroyed two trucks and one anti-tank gun. Battalion operating during the hours of darkness on road blocks protecting assembly areas and supply routes.

31 August 1944: Battalion moved in three columns (Company "A" in left column CC "A", Company "B" in left column CC "B", Battalion less two Companies in right column CC "B"). The Battalion supported the advance by outposting flanks of Division Units. Battalion less two companies closed in area in Bois de Botinequet 312130B August 1944. Company "B" less one Platoon plus Pioneer Platoon placed circular defense on all main roads leading into St Just en Chaussée with assistance of two platoons, 41st Infantry Regiment.

Total enemy material destroyed: 1 Mk III; 12 Mk IV's; 12 Mk V's, 1 French T; 6 Armored Cars; 6 Trucks; 1 Anti-tank Gun; 4 Non Vehicles; 2 Mcls. Captured 2 Senars

3. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- a. T/o Strength: 35 officers, 1 Warrant Officer, and 606 enlisted men.
 Effective strength: 35 officer, 1 Warrant officer, and 576 enlisted men.
- b. CASUALTIES

	Hq Co	Med	Sen Co	Co "A"	Co "B"	Co "C"	Total
(1) Killed	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 1	1 & 3	0 & 2	1 & 0	2 & 6
(2) Sick, Passed & Wounded							
Evacuated	0 & 3	0 & 1	1 & 11	0 & 12	0 & 16	1 & 7	2 & 50
Non evacuated	0 & 0	0 & 0	1 & 3	1 & 3	0 & 6	0 & 0	2 & 12
(3) Captured	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0
(4) Missing	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 1	0 & 2	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 3

c. Prisoners Captured: Two Officers and 159 enlisted men.

d. Evacuation: Normal.

e. Does not apply.

f. Status of supply: 150 operational miles gasoline and oil carried by Battalion at all times. One and one third units of fire carried by Battalion at all times.

g. Condition of roads and circulation: Movements made by this unit operating with Second Armored Division normally carried out on primary and secondary road net. Some cross country movements made during present operation

h. Replacements received: Five (5) officers and sixty six (66) enlisted men.

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By: JH NARA Date: 1

SECRET

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