

[REDACTED]

**HEADQUARTERS
703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230**

DWR/384

A. 703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION.

B. ATTACHED TROOPS: None.

C. STRENGTH: 31 Aug 44: 35 Ofors - 1 W.O. - 577 EM.
 30 Sep 44: 36 Ofors - 1 W.O. - 611 EM.
 INCREASE: 1 Ofor 34 EM.

D. Does not apply (See Narrative for locations).

E. See Narrative.

F. CAMPAIGNS:

1. No official classification of campaigns is known by this Headquarters. This unit fought through Eastern France and Belgium, and on the Western border of Germany during the period covered by this report.
2. 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.
3. Does not apply. See note below.
4. Does not apply. See note below.

NOTE: This Bn has had companies assigned to Combat Commands of the Third Armored Division throughout the period. Platoons of these companies have been integrated into Task Groups or Teams in the Combat Commands. Due to the confusion involved and lack of Bn control, this Bn has received very little detail of platoon actions and missions. Greater detail should be available from Combat Commands.

G. See Narrative.

H. Battalion Commander : Lt Col Wilbur E. SHOEMAKER.
 "A" Company Commander: Captain John W. COLE.
 "B" Company Commander: 1st Lt George W. BURKETT.
 "C" Company Commander: 1st Lt Henry F. GOSCH, 1 Sep 44 to
 12 Sep 44.
 Captain Evan REGAS 12 Sep 44 to
 16 Sep 44.
 1st Lt Henry F. GOSCH 16 Sep to
 30 Sep 44.
 Ren Company Commander: Captain Jack W. MURRAY
 Hq. Company Commander: Captain Sydney S. SMITH.

I. LOSSES IN ACTION: Battle Casualties:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Self, Richard B., Capt SIA

"A" COMPANY

Gri, Giovanni,	Pfc	MIA
Schochter, Raphael,	Cpl	MIA
Dann, Clarence H.,	1st	MIA
Watti, Lawrence A.,	Pfc	MIA
Scotrick, Joseph,	Pvt	MIA
Smith, Edward A.,	S/Capt	MIA

I. **Losses in Action: Battle Casualties: (cont'd).**

"B" COMPANY

Tenosa, Casimir G.,	Pvt	KIA
Dotterweich, Robert J.,	Opl	KIA
Owens, Estil M.,	Pvt	KIA
Eggleston, Walter P.,	Sgt	LWA
Ewart, Campbell, Jr.,	Opl	LWA
Arsenault, Edward J.,	Opl	LWA
Devine, Weston E.,	Sgt	LWA
Sellers, John W.,	Pvt	LWA
Gabrielson, Lloyd E.,	Pvt	LWA
Lewine, Lester I.,	2nd Lt	LWA

"C" COMPANY

Trojacek, Willie L.,	Opl	LWA
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RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

Barron, William T.,	Pvt	KIA
Villemure, Leonard J.,	Pvt	KIA
Roche, Edward J.,	Pfc	SWA

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Ginley, Charles W.,	Teo 5	SWA
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J. **CITATIONS:**

Teo 5 John S. Pollard 36605496, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 14 August 1944.

1st Lt Ralph L. Henderson 01168284, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 15 August 1944.

1st Lt William C. Smith 01012121, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 17 August 1944.

Sgt Walter J. Mesunas 33139504, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 18 August 1944.

1st James J. Enright 36078432, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 14 August 1944.

1st Edward J. O'Connor 31054522, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 15 August 1944.

1st Bert A. Linton 33157889, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 16 August 1944.

1st Lt Henry F. Koch 01012130, awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in France on 10 August 1944. Upon learning that one of his tank destroyers had received direct anti-tank fire into one of its tracks rendering it immobile, Lt Koch immediately went forward to the position of the vehicle. Against evacuation of the destroyer was imposed upon him, rather than allow the enemy to possibly totally destroy it, Lt Koch directed the repair of the track in spite of the incessant mortar, artillery, and shell attacks. In the process of repair, and while Lt Koch raised smoke to prevent detection, the enemy responded with a hail of mortar fire. In the course of the determination in repair of the damaged vehicle, thereby allowing it to immediately return to action, reflects great credit upon himself and his forces.

J. Citations: (cont'd)

1st Lt. Wendell E. Kinman 3701047, awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in France on 11 August 1944. As his commanding officer learned that one of his tank destroyers had received direct anti-tank fire into the rear of its turret rendering it immobile, 1st Lt. Kinman immediately moved to the position of the vehicle. Kinman evaded the fire of the destroyer and positioned his tank within range of the enemy to possibly destroy it. 1st Lt. Kinman fired in the rear of the tank and destroyed the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. In the process of the attack, 1st Lt. Kinman raised above the parapet of the trench, the enemy retreated with a loss of 30 men and 10 tanks. Kinman's actions in this battle resulted in the capture of the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. It is recommended that he be awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.

1st Lt. Raymond V. [redacted] 3701048, awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in France on 11 August 1944. As his commanding officer learned that one of his tank destroyers had received direct anti-tank fire into the rear of its turret rendering it immobile, 1st Lt. [redacted] immediately moved to the position of the vehicle. [redacted] evaded the fire of the destroyer and positioned his tank within range of the enemy to possibly destroy it. [redacted] fired in the rear of the tank and destroyed the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. In the process of the attack, [redacted] raised above the parapet of the trench, the enemy retreated with a loss of 30 men and 10 tanks. [redacted]'s actions in this battle resulted in the capture of the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. It is recommended that he be awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.

1st Lt. [redacted] 3701049, awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in France on 11 August 1944. As his commanding officer learned that one of his tank destroyers had received direct anti-tank fire into the rear of its turret rendering it immobile, 1st Lt. [redacted] immediately moved to the position of the vehicle. [redacted] evaded the fire of the destroyer and positioned his tank within range of the enemy to possibly destroy it. [redacted] fired in the rear of the tank and destroyed the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. In the process of the attack, [redacted] raised above the parapet of the trench, the enemy retreated with a loss of 30 men and 10 tanks. [redacted]'s actions in this battle resulted in the capture of the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. It is recommended that he be awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.

1st Lt. [redacted] 3701050, awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in France on 11 August 1944. As his commanding officer learned that one of his tank destroyers had received direct anti-tank fire into the rear of its turret rendering it immobile, 1st Lt. [redacted] immediately moved to the position of the vehicle. [redacted] evaded the fire of the destroyer and positioned his tank within range of the enemy to possibly destroy it. [redacted] fired in the rear of the tank and destroyed the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. In the process of the attack, [redacted] raised above the parapet of the trench, the enemy retreated with a loss of 30 men and 10 tanks. [redacted]'s actions in this battle resulted in the capture of the enemy tank, artillery, and mortar and crew. It is recommended that he be awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.



- J. Citations: (cont'd)
1ST LIEUTENANT JOHN E. WISSING JR 01283180, awarded posthumously the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in France on 14 August 1944.
- K. None.
- L. Attached: One (1) copy of unit journal. All orders and reports were received from higher headquarters. All orders to subordinate units were issued verbally.

For the Commanding Officer:

11/24
DONALD W. SEIBERT,
Capt., 703rd TD Bn,
S-3

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS: 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.

(Note: All coordinates listed are found in the Nord de Guerre grid system the 500 Km square. V. All letters preceding coordinates designate the 100 Km square within the above mentioned area.

Review of Latter Days of previous period:

- 26 Aug 44 Crossed Seine River in vicinity of TILLY (T 170088).
- 27 Aug 44 Crossed the Seine River vicinity of TRIEPORT (T 495510).
- 30 Aug 44 Crossed the Aisne River in vicinity of VILLY (T 942977).

On 30 Aug 44 the battalion was still attached to the Third Armored Division. Assignment of elements of the battalion to units of the Division were as follows;

- With C Comd "A": Co "A" w/1st Plt Ron Co attend.
- With C Comd "B": Co "B" w/3rd Plt Ron Co attend.
- With C Comd LEONE: (Div Res) Bn (-A & B Co's).

On 31 Aug 44 Div FO No. 12 directed that Bn (-A & B Co's) detached from C Comd LEONE and would follow C Comd "A" in the center of the Division Zone of action and would be committed only on Division order. This field order contained instructions for the Division to attack at 010700 Sept 44 with MONS, BELGIUM as the final objective.

Bn (-A & B Co's) was in vicinity of RUBIGNY (S 462274) where we were coiled for the night.

1 Sept 44. Bn (-A & B Co's) moved out from vicinity of RUBIGNY north to vicinity, south of LANDOUZY LA VILLE (O 368460). From this area the Bn S-3 Capt Self, accompanied a Ron Plt, whose mission was to investigate a civilian report that there were German troops in the vicinity S.E. of BUCILLY. At (O 390479), this force was fired upon by small arms and automatic weapons, from the vicinity of the bridge to the N.W. In the encounter that followed, Capt Self was seriously wounded and his driver was killed. When our Ron Plt returned their fire the enemy force withdrew. Six of the enemy were killed and some wounded by machine gun fire from our armored cars. One MG and one Mortar position were also destroyed. The Ron Plt returned to the assembly area to continue the march to the objective. The column marched through WIMY (O 318519) at 2000 hrs, and coiled north of that town (O 329562). The march was resumed at 2300 hours, until we coiled off the road at 020015 Sept 44 vicinity of ROCQUIGNY at (O 313667).

1st Plt, Co "B" reported destroying a heavy ammunition truck in vicinity of LA CHAPELLE DE PARPE (O 233596), expended 3 rounds 3" APC. 3rd Plt, Co "B" destroyed two Staff Cars in vicinity of LA CHAPELLE (O 262605), this action required expenditure of small arms ammunition only. An enemy General Officer was wounded in this action, he was captured and evacuated. At 2230 hours a platoon of Co "C" was employed as road block in vicinity of CLAIRTAINE (O 3060). One enemy ammunition truck and five men were destroyed.

~~SECRET~~

3 Sept 44. (cont'd)

Back at the Bn CP, word was received that the attack as scheduled would be delayed until 1200 hours on the 4th. Ron Co captured two (2) Germans attempting to sneak home about 2400 hours.

4 Sept 44.

At 0145 hours, the guards in the Bn CP area intercepted 5 Germans trying to break thru to rejoin their forces. Four of these men were wounded and evacuated the fifth was turned over to Pfc Joil. Co "B" reported destroying 10 enemy vehicles just before daylight. They also took numerous prisoners. "A" Co, 2nd Plt, destroyed 10 more German vehicles at about 0500 hours. Ron Co took 50 prisoners at 1100 hours in the vicinity of Bn CP. The Division began the attack in the afternoon and our column moved at 1710 hours. A Platoon of the 23rd Armd Engr Bn were attached to this unit, to provide security on road blocks to be established enroute for column protection at close of period the column was still advancing.

5 Sept 44.

All units of Bn moved during period. Co "A" arrived vicinity of 27400 T 136 (J 394126). Co "B" was out of radio range and no contact could be made. Bn (-A & B Co's) pulled off road in vicinity of 27400 T 136 (J 394126). The Bn C.O. held a meeting of all Commanders and Platoon Leaders, at 1400 hours, and disseminated information on road blocks, objective and assignment of assembly areas. Column moved out at 1450 hours and closed in assembly at 1915 hours in vicinity of 27400 T 136 (J 394126). On Div Res order, road blocks were established by Co "C" with personnel from 3rd Armd Inf Regt to provide security for the M-10's. At close of period there had been no contact made with Co "B". At about 2330 hours a few bursts of mortar fire was heard off to the north in the vicinity of Co "B" road blocks. Upon investigation it was found that friendly unit had knocked out a command car towing a tank. Six of the occupants had escaped and were subsequently captured by the men of our road block.

6 Sept 44.

In the vicinity of Bn CP was under heavy enemy mortar fire. A mortar sounder was located it was at a very close range, in fact, it was. Lt Paulson, of Co "B", at his road block was able to determine the mortar position by the flash and called for our help. As there was no wire communication, he called his Capt. A. J. who called the Bn C.O. by phone. The Bn C.O. in turn called Div Res and was connected directly with the 18th Armd Engr Bn which was general support for Div Res. The fire was silenced without further delay. Lt Paulson ceased his mortar fire for effect. The mortar was silenced and upon investigation, in daylight, it was found that the mortar was abandoned along with three ammunition and supply carts.

At 0900 hours, Lt. Col. 14, HQ 3rd Armd Div was received. The plan was to seize the town of "L107", Belgium. Combat Command "A" was to move, Combat Command "B" on the south, Division Reserve on the east and "A".

Co "B" reported no contact with the enemy during period, and moved out with their respective rear forces. Bn was out of radio contact with both companies at close of period. Div Res (18th Armd Engr) moved out at 1820 hours and at close of the period was still advancing.

7 Sept 44.

Column halted and coiled in vicinity of LAVOIR (K 138199) at 0300 hours. At 0950 hours the Bn Adjutant, Capt Beacham, who was traveling with the Div CP Group, reported that Co "A" was in the vicinity of WANZE (K 185185) and that Co "B" was in vicinity of HUY (K 2216). No other word was heard from these companies during the period. At 1053 the column again moved out. We coiled in vicinity of AMBSIN (K 275182) at 1500 hours. Lt Livengood, the liaison officer to Div Res, reported that our route to the objective had been changed. At 1750 hours the march was resumed. At 2015 hours, a section of TD's from Co "C" with the 2nd Plt of Ron Co were sent ahead of the column to set up road blocks, if necessary, to provide protection to the column. At 2400 hours the march was advancing without incident.

8 Sept 44.

0045 hours found us at our assembly position in vicinity of DIERIN PATARD (K 396297). One section of the 3rd Platoon of Co "C" was taken from the column and established a road block in vicinity of TILLRIU (K 4326), this block was set up at about 0100 hours. At 0800 hours, Co "B" reported their location as the vicinity of LIEGE (K 496206), they had undergone only normal events. At 1030 hours, Co "C" set up two more road blocks in vicinity of LIEGE at (K 377288) and (K 376276) with a section of TD's at each position. Another section was alerted to reinforce a road block of Div Res at (K 454331). This section moved out on order of Div Res and reported in position at 1030 hours. At 0930 hours, Capt Cole, Co "A" C.O., reported that Capt Gann, an outstanding Gun Comdr, of "A" Co, had been killed by enemy small arms fire. Remainder of period was spent in maintenance of vehicles and equipment and resting. Local defense plans were set before dark. Period closed without further event.

9 Sept 44.

Div Operations Memorandum No 9, was received at 0730 hours. This memo instructed the attack against VERVIES (K 8725). Combat Commands were to attack at 1100 hours on this date, Div Res to follow to assembly area on Div Order. Co "A" reported no unusual incidents during the period. Co "B" reported that they destroyed six enemy Gen Corp vehicles and two heavy trucks, also captured two motorcycles. Co "C" continued to maintain road blocks previously indicated. Two F.W. 190's flew over Bn CP at 1500 hours. They were fired upon by this unit and surrounding units but no hits were scored.

The Bn C.O. received route of advance to assembly area, and disseminated this information to subordinate commanders at 1730 hours. Movement to VERVIES was initiated by our column at 1818 hours. The head of our column crossed the ROUSE RIVER at 1950 hours. At close of period column was progressing without incident.

10 Sept 44.

Column continued march until 0130 hours, when we coiled off in road in vicinity of WYNNEBURY (K 532267). At 0210 hours, Co "A" reported their position as vicinity of VERVIES (K 87263). Orders were received from Div Res to move out at 0800, and the column moved out at 0905 hours. At 0930 hours, A.C. No 15, HQ Bn and Div was received enroute. These were the orders we had been wanting to see for so long--at last we were to crack the defenses of the SEIGFRIED BUNK. The division objective was the town of ESCH BIER (K 9548). Column coiled in vicinity of BLINDRE (K 554107), at 1130 hours and resumed the march at 1300 hours.

10 Sept 44. (cont'd).

We arrived at the assembly area in vicinity of S.W. of VERVIERS (K 674205) at 1646 hours. At 1700 hours orders were received from Div Res to post road blocks in vicinity of VERVIERS at (K 669198) and (K 675198), security for one road block was lacking, and one squad from 36th AIR was assigned to provide the necessary security. At 1730 hours the Bn.C.O. held a meeting of subordinate commanders to discuss plan of coming operations and problems that would arise with the civilian population.

11 Sept 44.

Objective was changed to vic of WALHORN (K 8033) at 110001 Sept 1944.

Bn C.O. disseminated information at 0900 hours on attack to ESCHWEILER and placed the subordinate units on a 1/2 hours alert status. There were no unusual events, except that the Div QM issued some very fine cigars to all units. At 1630 hours the column moved out and reached the high ground in vicinity, one mile NE of VERVIERS (K 688250), where we coiled at 1830 hours. In this location orders were received to march on a different route to vicinity of EUPEN, where we were to assemble. During this period Co "B" reported destroying one (1) A.T. Gun and three Gen purp vehicles. Column moved at 2015 hours arriving at Assembly Area in vicinity of EUPEN (K 783266).

12 Sept 44.

Enemy mortar fire fell thick and heavy at 0830 hours near Bn CP. There were no casualties however. A civilian showed the Bn C.O. where enemy gun positions were along the German border. This information was relayed to Div Res. At 1000 hours there was small gas fire to our south and a Ron Plt (2nd Plt) was sent to investigate. About 40 enemy prisoners, some wounded, was the result of this action. Co "C" had set up a road block at (K 774262), the 1st Plt of "A" Co 26th Inf Regt was assigned to provide security for this block. At 2100 hours we learned that the various Main Forces of the Third Armored Division had proved the defenses of the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of EUPEN (K 8633).

Message of 2400 hours this date from Div Ron NOS announced that Task Force Lovelady of C-300 had crossed the SIEGFRIED LINE at 1400 hours. This force is believed to be the first unit of the American Armies to cross these defenses. The 3rd Plt, Co "B" with Lt Ernest S. Silva in command, which was attached to Task Force Lovelady, was the first element of this Battalion to pass the Siegfried Line and is believed to be the first US unit of the American Armies to pass through.

13 Sept 44.

Bn moved in vicinity of WALHORN (K 8033) at 1815 hours, arrived at assembly area at 2210 hours. Co "B" reported their 1st Plt to have destroyed at WALHORN, Germany (K 802839), 3rd and 2nd Plt to have destroyed at (K 802839). Co "A" reported their 1st Plt to have destroyed at (K 802839).

14 Sept 44.

Bn moved in vicinity of WALHORN (K 8033) at 1815 hours, arrived at assembly area at 2210 hours. Co "B" reported their 1st Plt to have destroyed at WALHORN, Germany (K 802839), 3rd and 2nd Plt to have destroyed at (K 802839).

15 Sept 44.

Bn moved in vicinity of WALHORN (K 8033) at 1815 hours, arrived at assembly area at 2210 hours. Co "B" reported their 1st Plt to have destroyed at WALHORN, Germany (K 802839), 3rd and 2nd Plt to have destroyed at (K 802839).

16 Sept 44.

All 0825 hours there was quite a lot of small arms fire to the NW of the Bn CP. A force of the 83rd Armad Ron Bn moving in the clean out the town of BUSHBACH. One section of Co "B" fired on the church steeple in support of this attack. This section also fired on ~~xxx~~ pill boxes in the vicinity of the attack. Results are unknown. At 1100 hours "B" Co reported there location as 3rd Plt (K 962412), 1st Plt (K 939385), the Co CP (-1st & 3rd Plts) at (K 912378) vicinity of B. The 3rd Plt of "B" Co had one M-10 destroyed by AT fire in vicinity of (K 939385). Casualties 2 PW KIA, 4 LAA, 1 KIA. At 1345 hours word was received that a platoon of 11' was to support a Tank-Inf Team in cleaning out BUSHBACH. The 3rd Plt of Co "C" with Lt Austin in command, ~~this platoon~~ moved out immediately; another section of TD's was alerted to move out if necessary to support this attack. At 1700 hour the 1st Plt of "C" Co reported they had knocked out 3 pill-boxes, after it was learned that the enemy ran out after three or four rounds hit the pill box--though it is doubtful that a penetration could have been made at the ranges they were fired upon. At 1955 hours "B" Co reported destroying one enemy tank, jeep vehicle and one house containing an enemy observation post. 3rd Plt of "C" Co reported their outpost was at (K 912409). The 3rd Plt, Co "C" called for extra security and the 1st Plt of "B" and Ron "C" were provided this platoon.

17 Sept 44.

The 3rd Plt, Co "B" reported at 0950 hours that there was a mortar and machine gun fire to their right flank. Co "B" reported their 3rd Plt was under intense mortar fire, and 2 M-10's damaged and destroyed. At 1140 hours 3rd Plt "B" Co, was relieved of their mission with the Tank-Inf Team and reported to the Company assembly area. Casualties were also received at this time for one Plt of TD's to 3rd Plt direct on EUCO (K 9648). 1st Plt of "B" Co fired the machine guns their road block position areas. AT fire was passing after registration on base point. 3rd Plt of "C" was ordered to establish road blocks at (K 912390) and (K 912395) at 1500 hours.

18 Sept 44.

3rd Plt, Co "C" was again alerted to move to vicinity of BUSHBACH to support the 83rd Armad Ron Bn in cleaning out this town. There were no unusual activities throughout the day until 1700 hours, at which time 3rd Plt Co "C" reported that one (1) M-10 had been destroyed by AT fire. Casualties 1 TD with slight burns.

19-20 Sept 44.

No unusual events.

21 Sept 44.

Co "B" reported their 1st Plt destroyed two (2) M-10's, knocked out two (2) pill boxes, and 1 M-10 destroyed. Unknown number of enemy infantry killed. 3rd Plt of "B" Co in BUSHBACH, 83rd Armad Ron Bn was relieved by and an M-10 destroyed. 3rd Plt of "C" still some mission in area. 3rd Plt of "B" Co established road blocks at road block area in BUSHBACH (K 923412).

22 Sept 44.

Moved at 1200 closing in new assembly area at 1320 hours in vicinity of 3rd Plt (K 938378). At 1410 hours Co "B" reported the first and second platoons were moving toward (K 948432). The company suffered casualties; 1 M-10 for LAA, 2 M-10 for LAA. Co "B" established road blocks in 3rd Plt area.

23 Sept 44.

3rd Plt Co "C" moved to vicinity of VENWEGEN (K 923356) for indirect firing mission at 1530 hours. Harassing and Interdictory missions were fired on ESCHWEILER. All units of Division in period of rest maintenance and rehabilitation.

24-27 Sept 44.

No unusual events---all units rotating platoons and sections so all men will receive an opportunity to clean up and rest.

28 Sept 44.

3rd Plt Co "C" relieved of Indirect Mission replaced by 2nd Plt, Co "B" with same mission.

Co "B" reports their disposition:--1st Plt vicinity of BREINIG, (K 912331), 3rd Plt (K 950418), CP and 2nd Plt in vicinity of BREINIGWEGHEIDE (K 912378).

"A" Co with all units in vicinity of SCHULTZHEIDE (K 929387).

29 Sept 44.

2nd Plt, Co "B" relieved of indirect fire mission at 1200 hours and returned to Company assembly area.

30 Sept 44.

This battalion was issued eighteen (18) 90mm Gun, Motor Carriage M-36. These are to be test fired in next few days. Six (6) M-36's were issued to each gun company--and further broken down one (1) per section. All crews are looking forward to test firing of the 90mm Gun.