

E.T.O. Echoes

From the diary of 1st Sgt. Roy Roberson, A. Co.
704th T.D. Battalion

July 25, 1944 was an unforgettable day for the men of Co. A. It was the start of the Normandy breakout. Three thousand of our Airforce spilled tons of bombs on the enemy that shook the very ground on which we stood three miles away. When the last bomb was dropped the 4th Armored Division with the 704th attached, plunged out through a dazed enemy. But the knock out was far from complete. Very soon a German tank opened fire and knocked out five of our half tracks.

Lt. Addison took his 2nd Platoon with Sgt. Schedevy's tank leading, and roared forward to engage the enemy. Sgt. Joe Schedevy spotted the Jerry Tank first. M-18 Driver T/5 Beck whipped the tank around into a firing position and Gunner Cpl. Treet laid the cross hairs on the center of the swastika and fired the first direct fire round for the 704. It was a good shot and did the job. Before the T.D. stopped rocking, Treet spotted another Jerry Tank behind a hedge row. The Jerry fired at our T.D. and missed. A second round from Treet left the Kraut going up in smoke. Two more enemy tanks, panic stricken, tried to escape and exposed their positions. 2nd. Platoon Tanks fired four more shots and neutralized the enemy in a holocaust of flame. This confrontation gave A. Co. a great deal of confidence but it was gained at a very high price because Lieutenant Addison was instantly killed in the battle.