

AFTER ACTION REPORT NOTES - 705TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Believed to have been written by Capt. Wayne Tennant

22 Aug 1944 0730 Co B and Co C move to new location.
1100 Co A and B relieved of mission. Return to bivouac area south of St. Ureain.
1600 CP group moves to new bivouac area N.W. of Daoulas.
2100 Co A and B move to new bivouac area N.W. of Daoulas. Rcn platoons remain on a East
- West line through Dhoulas. (Rcn attached Cav)
2400 1/4 mi N.W. Daoulas - W114959

22 Aug 1944 - 23 Aug 1944

1801 S-3 Our operations for the period - at 1801, 22 Aug, 705 Tank Destroyer Bn, minus Co C and Rcn Co, with Co A 603 T.D. Bn attached, were bivouacked N.W. of Daoulas, coord W114959. 0730, 23 Aug, Co B moved out of bivouac and advanced north to indirect fire position. Co A moved out of bivouac into direct fire positions north of Daoulas. Mission of Co A and B to provide reinforced fire to the 83rd Field Artillery Battalion. At 1600 Co B was relieved of their direct fire mission and assigned to the 2nd Inf Division, but at 231800 position of company remains unchanged.

23 Aug 1944 2400 1/4 mi. N. Daoulas - W114959

23 Aug 1944 24 Aug 1944

1800 S-3 report No. 8 - Par 5 Our operations for the period: At 231801 705 TD Bn minus Co B, C and Rcn Co with Co A, 605 TD Bn attached bivouacked 1/4 mi N.W. of Daoulas coord W114959. During the night Co A fires from indirect fire positions on targets east of Brest and also threw unobserved fire on German ships reported vicinity coord 080898. 0930 24 Aug, one platoon Co A 603 TD Battalion was attached to the 50th Armored Infantry Division. Par 7 Results of operations all targets reported neutralized.

24 Aug 1944 2400 1/4 mi N. Daoulas - W114959

24 Aug 1944 25 Aug 1944

1800 S-3 report No. 9 - Par. 5 - Our operations for the period: At 241801. 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, minus Company B, C, and Rcn Co, with Co A 603rd T. D. Battalion attached, were bivouacked 1/4 N.W. of Daoulas, coord W114959. During the night Company A, providing reinforcing fire to the 83rd Field Artillery Bn., fired at intervals at target areas designated along the southern portion of the peninsula. Early in the morning of 25 August, Co A, 705th TD Bn, moved to new location closing in new position by 0830 (coord FDC-09809607, 3rd pl 09647620) during the afternoon of 25 August Co A resumed their indirect firing from their new positions. The 2nd Plat of Co A, 603rd TD Bn., attached to the 50th Armored Inf. Bn. remained with the forward CP or the 50th. Par 7 - Results of operations. All fire reported to be effective.

25 Aug 1944 2400 1/4 mi N.W. Daoulas W114959

25 Aug 1944 26 Aug 1944

1800 S3 report No. 10 - Par 5 - At 251801, 705 Tank Destroyer Battalion, minus Co. B, C, and Recon company with Co A, 603 T.D. Battalion attached, were bivouacked 1/4 mi WW of Daoulas, coord W114959. During the night, Co. A provided harassing fire on the north and south approaches to the Brest Bridge. At 0730, 26 August the 3rd Plat of Co A,

705th T.D. Battalion was attached to the 15th Cavalry Group and at 0815, the 3rd platoon moved to new position (coord 085906) to fire at boats which might be in the harbor to the south of that position. At 0800 26 Aug Rcn Co moved south to new position at 0930, each platoon covering an assigned area (see overlay). Beginning at 1230 and continuing during the afternoon, the 1st and 2nd plat of Co A, 705 T.D. Bn. provided harassing fire on hill 82. Par 7 - Results of operations - all fire reported to be effective.

26 Aug 1944 2400 1/4 mi N.W. Daoulas W114959

27 Aug 1944 0830 Bn. Command Group and Co A move to new bivouac area vicinity Hanvec. Trains move down from vic. Lanlerneau and bivouac vicinity Hanvec. (attached to 15th Cavalry).
1000 out-guard established by Co A security
1315 Co A (-) moves out on firing mission. Security called in Hq. trains. Established new Out-guard.
1400 Co A (-) registers and fires on enemy emplacements. CP, Co A and Bn. advance CP established on hill 154. Op shelled by mortar.
2100 Co A (-) bivouac vic Le(?)
2400 1/4 mi S.W. Hanvec - W185900

28 Aug 1944 0630 Co A plike(?) 2nd and 1st plat into indirect fire positions. Poor visibility makes registrations impossible, also Co A mortars unable to fire.

28 Aug 1944 28 Aug 1944

1400 S3 Report No 9 - Par 5 - Our operations for the period - order received 281400B of relief from 6th TD Group and attached to 15th Cav Task Force A. Bn less two gun companies assigned mission of counter reconnaissance sector from coord 045990 down to coord 215812, sector 045990 to (?) Assigned to Troop A, 15th Cav Cp, with 3rd plat, A Co., 705th T.D. Bn attached. Mission to prevent all landings on these shores and to take any boats (?) toward Landevinnec (sp?) under fire. Sector from 095900 down to 2158?? assigned to recon Co., 705 T.D. Bn disposed as follows: 1 platoon from 095900 to 155875, Rcn Co minus 1 plat., balance of sector 2 platoons A Co 705 T.D. Bn. to furnish indirect fire on designated targets on the Crozon peninsula. 1 sect. furnishing direct roving fire on near shore targets of Crozon Peninsula. Rcn Co., 705 T.D. Bn affected relief from Troop C, 15th Cav at 1600 today. Relief of 1st plat. Rcn Co, 705 T.D. Bn. from A Troop 15th Cav in process at 1700 today. Co A minus (?) delivered indirect fire on designated concentration from 281500B to 281800B.

28 Aug 1944 29 Aug 1944

1800 S3 report No.10 - Par 5 - Our operations for the period - orders effective 281600B for Group, Task Force A, consisting of 705 T.D. Bn., minus two gun companies and A troop, 15th Cavalry, to carry out mission of (?) and patrolling sector between Anse-Du-Min-neuf and Chateaulin, to secure flank of Task Force B with particular attention to shore line of north west to W 045933 and to support attack of Group A with fire from positions on Terenez Peninsula. At 290700, positions same as of 281800 hours. Reports recv from advanced CP. 705, Rcn Co 705 and A Troop, 15th Cav, and same reports relayed to C.G.(?) TD (?). At approximately 290400B positions changes as of overlay attached. At approximately 281900B, A Troop, 15th Cav. rcl'd 1st plat, Rcn Co 705 and took up positions on a line as indicated on attached overlay. A Co, 705 T.D. Bn. and A

Troop, 15th Cav, fired indirectly on designated targets of opportunity as were presented. Positions on - changed as of 290900B and firing continues as of 291800B.

29 Aug 1944 30 Aug 1944

1800 S3 report No 11 - Par 5 - Our operations for the period: At the end of period 291800B, direct and indirect fires were being rendered on Landevennic, Peninsula, Argol and Meneshom Hill as well as targets of opportunity by A Co, 705 T.D. Bn. Firing reported successful. 3rd platoon A Co and Rcn Co, 705 T.D. Bn atchd (unable to locate continuation of this report - jss)

30 Aug 1944 31 Aug 1944

1800 S3 report No 12 - Our operations for the period: At the beginning of the period 301800B, two platoons of Co A were being registered. After the guns were registered, both platoons opened fire, expending approximately 400 rounds of ammunition indirect fire on enemy gun emplacements. On the 31st of Aug, both platoons again opened fire on possible gun emplacements at 1000. At 1115 2nd platoon fired on gun positions at crossroads coord 130819. At that time, the mortar platoon of Company A was supporting the advance of the 1st platoon, C Troop Cavalry. At 1210 they displaced forward behind the cavalry to give closer support. Co A was firing at main enemy supply road on targets of opportunity. At 1410 they fired on artillery pieces at coord 104811. At 1447 A Co. OP moved forward and at 1530, 2nd plat. displaced to position in vicinity of 16?????. some of the enemy's gun emplacements were masked from Co A's guns by a hill or were trajectoryed by being out of range. At end of period, all units were in positions shown of attached overlay.

31 Aug 1944 01 Sept 1944

1801 S3 report No 13 - Our operations for the period: At end of period 311800B all units were in position as per overlay submitted 311800B. At 311900B, Co A, 705 T.D. Battalion, minus, reported all guns registered. Co A renders indirect harassing fires as previously ordered at designated targets throughout the night. Co C, 705 T.D. Bn. rejoins battalion at approx. 31 1100B and is immediately given mission of indirect fire on target in vicinity 028803. At 312130B, Co C, 705 T.D. Bn. moves to an assembly area in general vicinity of 102753, with gun positions to be taken at dawn. Hourly reports received are relayed to brigade headquarters. F.O. 25 Hqs Task Force A dated 010830B, Sept., 44 received at 011000B. 705 T.D. Bn, minus, to continue support of Group A in launching coordinated attack on Croson Peninsula, and to continue mission of patrols to Douarnenez. Co A 705 T.D. Bn expends 261 rounds during the night on target of Menex-Hom. At 011215, one plat Co A displaced forward to position in front of unit they are supporting. One mortar squad in support of C Troop, 15th Cav. Sq, fired at enemy infantry located at coord 106817 and 100800. At 011450B, 1st platoon registered at position coord 190798. At end of period, operations proceeding as per schedule.

01 Sept 1944 02 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 14 - Our operations for the period: At the end of period, 011800B, positions were as overlay submitted at that time. Reports are being received and rendered to Brigade Headquarters hourly. At approximately 2030 road block was established at point 070080 by 3rd plat, Co C. At 2100, 2nd plat. Co A and forward to position 121814. First plat. Co A remained at 122819, and mortar squad in support of B Troop, 15th Cavalry moved to 130817. Positions remained as such until 020800B when our advanced CP moved forward to position 068799. At approx 0900, C Co CP and 3rd plat. C Co

moved to position 070800. At 1200, A Co. CP moved to position 075835 and 2nd plat. A Co moved to 038854, and at 1400 1st plat Co A moved to position 029861. All of above changes were in order to secure better positions for more effective fire on designated targets. At 1430, 2nd plat. A Co moved to 049846 and 1st plat. to 029861. At 1600, 1st section, 3rd plat. C Co went forward with B Troop, 17th Cav to take care of pill boxes and other resistance at coord 020821. At 1625, Co C, minus 3rd plat was shelled out of their position and had to displace to new position. At end of period, companies were displaced on a defensive line as per attached overlay.

02 Sept 1944 03 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 15 - Our operations for the period: At the end of period 021800B, companies were displaced as per overlay submitted at that time. At 1845 Co A established road block at 016855. An unknown number of enemy guns were destroyed at point 020827 as result of Co A firing during period of 1800 to 2000. 1st and 3rd plat., Co C returned to area Co C CP at 2300. Positions remained as such during the night with reports rendered to this Hqs and relayed to Brigade hourly. At 0915, our advance CP moved out to position vicinity C Co CP. At 0945, word received that Co C OP was being bombed and strafed in vicinity Telcruz. Air operations continued in that vicinity and our medical detachment carried ambulances forward to help evacuate casualties at 1200. Battalion CP moved to new forward position on 074797. Night and morning fire results of Co A reported successful. At 1300, Co A positions as follows; 1st plat 044830, 2nd plat. 073800, and 3rd plat 022812. 3rd plat Co C had direct fire mission on target at Groas. Co C fired at designated targets and targets of opportunity until 1550. When report received that patrols reached their target area. At 1600 Co C Cp moved to 049838 and other units at the end of period as per overlay attached.

03 Sept 1944 04 Sept 1944

1800 (Unable to locate the S3 report No 16 - After Action report for this period in the materials I have. jss)

04 Sept 1944 05 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 17 - Our operations for the period: Prior to 041800B, indirect positions of 2nd plat, Co A and 2nd plat, Co Receiving periodic accurate counter battery, displaced to coord 049831 and 059795 respectively and completed registration. Schedule of indirect fire on ordered concentrations fired prior to 0600 by Companies A and C. A Co fired indirect intermittently during the morning of 5 Sept at targets position coord. 984855, located by company observer and verified by PW to be an enemy Bn. CP. At 1300, Co A fired on designated targets 19, 5 and 25. (Ref overlay target position rec'd 041900B, TFA). Op of Co C on hill 130 was shelled from 1315 on, by un-located guns. At approx. 1400 Co C CP moved to position coord 062790. 2nd plat. Co A firing on enemy camouflaged positions at coord 995858 at 1450. At end of period, 051800B, positions as per overlay attached.

05 Sept 1944 06 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 18 - Our operations for the period: 1st plat, Co A to coord 036861 and provisional mortar plat to coord 024860 at approx 2000. Companies A and C completed scheduled concentrations at 060700. Defense plans (coordinated with 35th Eng. Bn.) prepared at 1000. During the morning of the 6th, Co A resumed firing on designated targets completing schedule at 1350. Officer patrol was dispatched to patrol the southern

coastline of the Crozon Peninsula between the 030 and 075 grid lines. At 1800 all units were in positions shown on attached overlay.

06 Sept 1944 07 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 19 - Our operations for the period: During the evening of the 6th, Companies A and C were firing concentrations designated by higher headquarters when at 2245, Co C reported their 2nd plat as receiving heavy counter battery fire. At approx. 2300 A "cease fire" was issued to both companies which remained in effect for the duration of the night. The officer patrol guarding the southern coastline of the Crozon Peninsula between 025 and 075 grid lines reported blinking lights of a suspicious nature at 2300, which proved, however; upon investigation to come from a friendly source. During the day, 7th Sept, Co A & C fired upon enemy gun positions. At the end of the period, all units were in positions shown of attached overlay.

07 Sept 1944 08 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 20 - Our operations for the period: 1800 - 0800, 7 - 8 September, positions unchanged, no fires. 0828 orders received Plan "A" effective. At 0830 Companies ordered to fire concentration on call. 1119 orders received Plan "B" effective. 3rd platoon of Co C ordered to attack position. One destroyer struck mine coord 032822. One man killed, two wounded. Destroyer rendered immobile. More mines reported that vicinity. One squad of engineers worked with Company C to clear roads. At 1622, 1st and 3rd plat. Co. C reported in position coord 026823.

08 Sept 1944 09 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 21 - Our operations for the period: Orders received 081900, Hq TFA to support reconnaissance in force of 15th Cavalry morning 9 Sept. Direct and indirect fire. Support plan prepared Hq 15th Cav. Group. 1st platoon Co C to render direct support. 0900 - 0930 2nd platoon, Co C and 2nd plat Co A moved to vicinity 008856 and fired direct fire into area vicinity Botsant. Upon withdrawal of unit supported 1st plat. Co A. returned at 1300 to original position.

09 Sept 1944 10 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 22 - Our operations for the period: 2nd plat Co A received counter battery fire, displace to coord 047878, 100605 to 106635. Indirect fire platoons Co A and C each fired 80 rounds in 500 yd square area (reported German concentration) vicinity Kerael. During afternoon 10 Sept., Co C fired on enemy gun position - at 1220 scored direct hits on two anti-aircraft guns coord 476858. At end of period all units in positions shown on attached overlay.

10 Sept 1944 11 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 23 - Our operations for the period: 0800 - 2000, 10 Sept, Co C fired on German infantry during the day 11 Sept., Co A fired on two artillery pieces of unknown cal. vic. Botsant. No change in positions during the period.

11 Sept 1944 12 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 24 - Our operations for the period: At 111925 active enemy gun. coord 939865 silenced by Co A indirect fire. No fires during night 11 - 12 September. During the day 12 Sept., Co C fired on possible gun positions. At 1400, Co A Op shelled by enemy guns vicinity Botsant. At end of period, units in positions shown on attached overlay.

12 Sept 1944 13 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 25 - Our operations for the period: During the 24 hour period ending 131800, Co A no schedule of fires, no change of position. Co C indirect concentrations at 971839 and 979844, interditory fire on crossroads 968827 and 971830. At end of period units in positions shown on attached overlay.

13 Sept 1944 14 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 26 - Our operations for the period: During the 24 hour period ending 141800, Co. A and Co. C no schedule of fires, no change of positions. At 141132B Battalion CP moved to position coord W076847. At 141605B Battalion relieved of responsibility for south left flank of Crozon Peninsula, officer patrol withdrawn. At end of period units in positions shown on attached overlay.

14 Sept 1944 15 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 27 - Our operations for the period: At the end of period 141800B, orders being issued to Co. Commanders for support of Task Force A Attack upon completion of seizure of objectives by infantry. 1st and 2nd platoons, Co A to support 15th Cav and 17th Cavalry respectively with close, direct fire. Co C to move to assembly position vicinity coord 045805, Task Force reserve. At approximately 142000B, Co. C reports results of fire upon target coord 944827 to be one 75mm gun knocked out and ammunition dump blown. At 151800B, advance CP moved to C Co CP. 1st plat A Co moved to coord 022858.

15 Sept 1944 16 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 28 - Our operations for the period: No change.

16 Sept 1944 17 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 29 - Our operations for the period: No change in positions through the night and morning. At 171025A, advance CP displaced to 15th Cavalry Group CP. At approximately 171130A, 1st and 2nd platoons Co A and C Co move to position coord 020834. At 171330A, 1st and 2nd platoons Co A approach phase line 1. Advance CP and Co C to position coord 995841 at 171620A. Operations proceeding as per schedule at end of period.

17 Sept 1944 18 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 30 - Our operations for the period: At the end of the period 171800A, Bn CP moving forward arriving at new position coord 033843 at 171832A. At 171955A, 1st and 2nd plat, A Co at approx positions coord 968856 and 950847 respectively, but still moving forward as per schedule. Co C at position coord 993842 acting as reserve force. At approx 171211A, Co A bivouacked for night on their axis of advance at approx coord 953861 and 937856. (above coord for 1st and 2nd platoons respectively). Advance CP displaces forward at 180900A. At 181205A, Co A 1st and 2nd platoons displaced forward in support of 15th and 17th Cavalry respectively at positions coord 920834 and 928824 continuing to push forward. At 181500A, 1st and 2nd platoons Co A at coord 896825 and 903800 respectively. At end of period, Co C at positions coord 897774 and adv CP at position coord 960792 with 1st and 2nd plat. displaced forward as per overlay attached.

18 Sept 1944 19 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 31 - Our operations for the period: At the end of period 181800A, Co C and 2nd plat. Co A rendering direct fire on town of Kerroux and enemy installations. Upon collapse of enemy forces, TD mission completed. Company A remained with Cavalry units they were supporting until receipt of orders on morning of 19 September, recalling Bn (-) to assembly area vicinity Plonevez-Porzay. At 191030A, Bn CP moved to position coord 120697. At 191145A Co C and 2nd platoons, Co A reverted to Bn control, closing in area, coord 120696 at approx.. 191450A with their 3rd platoon remaining under control of 6th T.D. Group. At end of period, positions as shown on attached overlay.

19 Sept 1944 20 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 32 - Our operations for the period: Orders received at 191800A for Task Force A advance on Douarnenez Peninsula. No change night of 19 - 20 September. At 200625A, advance guard cleared, and at 200645A. battalion (-) cleared. At 200800A, 1st and 2nd plat Co A in direct support of 15th and 17th Cavalry respectively. At 200830A, forward CP closes coord 920610, B Company 923610, C Company 920613. Rcn parties dispatched for direct fire positions to north and east of enemy held positions. At 201030A, advance CP displaces forward to coord 878595, and at 201100A, one platoon of C Company occupied direct fire positions coord 780480 but withdrew 15 minutes later to clear bomb line. At 201245A, Co C and one platoon B Company displaced forward with C Company rendering direct fire on right flank. At 201335A mortar platoon covers targets with smoke. B Company platoon occupies firing position on left flank. At 201418A, cease fire order given. At 201710A, advance CP returns to Bn. area, with companies following. Positions at end of period, same as overlay of 191800A.

20 Sept 1944 21 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 33 - Our operations for the period: No change.

21 Sept 1944 22 Sept 1944

1800 S3 report No 34 - Our operations for the period: At 221330A, Bn moves to new area coord R238139 arriving in new location at 221700. Rcn Co, with 3rd plat oc Co A attached rejoined Bn at LeFrou and marched with them to present location.

22 Sept 1944 2400 No change

23 Sept 1944 2400 No change

24 Sept 1944 0600 Moved out of bivouac vic Bodilis. Attdhd 34 FA Brig.

1330 Arrived new bivouac area approx 3 miles N.W. of Guer coord X625355 - Camp de Coetquidan.

2400 No change.

25 Sept 1944 2400 No change - Training period.

26 Sept 1944 2400 No change - Training period.

27 Sept 1944 2400 No change - Training period.

28 Sept 1944 2400 No change - Training period.

29 Sept 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
30 Sept 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
01 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
02 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
03 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
04 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
05 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
06 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
07 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
08 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.
09 Oct 1944	2400	No change - Training period.