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HEADQUARTERS
774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

1 November 1944

SUBJECT : After Battle Report.

TO : Commanding General, XX Corps, APO 340, US Army
Attn: Historical Section (thru channels)



On 1 October 1944 the 774th TD Bn minus Co. "B", attached to the 5th Inf. Div., assigned the mission of protecting the 5th Div. bridgehead south of Metz from armored attack, paying particular attention to the north and northeast flank, both east and west of the Moselle River. Co. "B" was attached to the 4th TD Gp and employed in general support of the 90th Inf. Div. between St. Marcol (U700596) and Rezonville (U726568); Co. "A" in support of the 11th CT, 5th Inf. Div. were in position as follows: 1st Platoon, vic. of Arry (U775462); 2nd Platoon, west of Arry (U783454); 3rd Platoon, vic. Corny (U773476).

Co. "C", protecting north flank of 5th Inf. Div. west of Moselle River, was employed as follows: 1st Platoon in direct support of 2nd Bn., 11th Inf in attack on Ft. Driant (U770539) in position covering armored approaches from north at Noveant (U764483); 2nd Platoon vic. Gorze (U730521) 3rd Platoon north of Gorze (U72550). 1st Recon Platoon, attached to 11th CT, was assigned mission to establish OP north of Noveant (U765485), observing all possible approaches from north, and during hours of darkness to patrol river road as far north as Ancy sur Moselle (U778522); 2nd Recon Platoon; one section attached to Co. "A" and employed as security for 2nd Platoon at U778456; one section to establish OP 400 yards north Noveant at U766485 to observe enemy action and prevent surprise of 1st Platoon, Co. C.

Bn. CP located vicinity of Arnaville (U749473).

2nd Platoon, Co. "C", after hours of darkness moved to indirect firing position north of Arry (U775462) relieving 1st Platoon, Co. "A" of indirect firing mission, and during night expended 600 rounds HE harrassing firing on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery, returning to their primary positions, vic. Gorze (U730521) prior to dawn.

On 2 Oct. 1944 there was no change in employment of Bn. 2nd Platoon, Co. "C" occupied positions after darkness, delivered 600 rounds HE indirect harrassing firing on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery, returning to primary positions prior to daylight. Night patrol to Ancy sur Moselle (U778522) completed and CO, 2nd Bn., 11th Inf informed that minefield at (77 had been disturbed and was not protected.

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On 3 Oct. *hh* the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in direct support of 2nd Bn., 11th Inf, in attack on Ft. Briant (U770539) moved to assembly area at U758521. One section, 2nd Plat., Co. "C" occupied positions vacated by 1st Platoon, Co. "C" at Noveant (764483). Night patrol to vicinity sur. Moselle (U778522) reports no enemy activity. During the night Co. "A" delivered 600 rounds HE indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty.



On 4 Oct. *hh* Co. "A" fired 541 rounds HE indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty. Recon patrol report negative.

On 5 Oct. *hh* there was no change in disposition of Bn. Co. "A" fired 628 rounds HE indirect harrassing fires at targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty. Recon patrol report negative.

On 6 Oct. *hh* there was no change in Bn. disposition. Co. "A" expended 601 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned 5th Div. Arty. Recon report negative.

On 7 Oct. *hh* 1st Plat. Co. "C" attached to TF Warnock, assigned the mission of furnishing antimechanized protection to northwest flank of troops attacking Ft. Briant (U770539) emplaced in position at (U765540). Co. A expended 599 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. Recon patrol negative.

On 8 Oct. *hh* Co. "A" expended 605 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty. Two prisoners captured by Co. "C". Recon patrol report negative.

On 9 Oct. *hh* Recon p/atrol report negative. Co. "A" expended 583 rounds HE indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. No change in disposition of Bn.

On 10 Oct. *hh* there was no change in disposition of Bn. Co "A" expended 600 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty. Col. Browning, CG, 4th TD Gp awarded Bronze Star to Sgt. Durbin, Co. "C" for outstanding action against an enemy of the US.

On 11 Oct. *hh* Co. "A" expended 600 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. Three casualties were sustained in Co. "A" as a result of mortar fire in area of 3rd Platoon. Enemy artillery caused seven casualties (2 killed) in area of 1st Platoon, Co. C, in support of Ft. Briant operation. Recon patrol report negative.

On 12 Oct. *hh* Co. "A" expended 600 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by CG, 5th Div. Arty. 1st Recon Platoon, as a result of enemy arty, suffered four casualties (one killed). Shellrep on damaging arty. submitted by 2nd platoon, Co. "C" resulted in destruction of three gun enemy battery. Section of Recon Plat. attached to Co. "A" was relieved from assignment and assembled in vic. of Bn CP (U749473). 1st Platoon, Co. "C", in support of Ft. Briant operation withdrew to assembly area at U746523 prior to withdrawal of infantry. Co. "A" sustained five casualties (3 killed) as result of mortar fire in 1st Platoon area south of Corry (U773476). Recon patrol report negative.

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On 13 Oct. 44 there was no change in disposition of Bn. Co. "A" expended 600 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty. Rcn platoon patrol report negative.

On 14 Oct. 44, Bn., minus Co. "A" was relieved of attachment to 5th Inf. Div. and attached to 4th TD Gp. No change in mission of Co. "C". Co. "A" was attached to 818th TD Bn by 5th Inf. Div. Co. "B" returned to Bn. control. "B" Co's 2nd Platoon was placed in position to perform secondary mission at (U702551) in support of 344th P. Bn. Platoon fired 14 rounds HE - Registration. Co. "A" expended 600 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Arty. Rcn patrol report negative.

On 15 Oct. 44, One PW captured by Co. "C" in the vic. of Noveant (U764483). Co. "A" expended 394 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. 2dn Plat. of Co. "B" in support of 344th P. Bn, fired 24 rounds HE, one round smoke and observed fire. Rcn patrol report negative.

On 16 Oct. 44, the 3rd Platoon, Co. "C" was placed on secondary mission in positions at (U704545) in support of 344th P. Bn. 1st Platoon, Co. "C", returned to position at Noveant (U768452) and section of 2nd Platoon returned to position vic. of Gorze (U730521). Co. "B" expended three rounds HE indirect fire. Co. "A" expended 496 rounds HE in indirect harrassing fires on targets assigned by 5th Div. Artillery. Rcn patrol report negative.

On 17 Oct. 44, the 2nd Platoon, Co. "B" fired 112 rounds HE, indirect fire. The 3rd Platoon, Co. "C" fired 97 rounds HE, indirect fire. The 1st Platoon, Co. "A" relieved of primary mission and placed in position to perform secondary mission. Fires coordinated and observed by 5th Div. Arty. 158 rounds HE delivered. Rcn patrol report negative.

On 18 Oct. 44, Rcn patrol captured one German Officer (Lt) in Nancy sur Moselle (778522). Officer later killed attempting to escape vic. Dornot (U771512). 1st Platoon Co. "A" expended 104 rounds indirect observed fires. Results: two enemy horsedrawn carts, with personnel, destroyed. The 3rd Platoon, Co. "C" fired 72 rounds HE indirect observed fires. The 2nd Platoon, Co. "B" expended 103 rounds HE indirect observed fires.

On 19 Oct. 44 the Bn. CP moved to Fuxieux (U653546). Rear echelon moved to Sponville (U610543). Movements completed 1130 hours. 2nd Platoon, Co. "B" fired 160 rounds HE indirect observed fires. Rcn patrol report negative.

On the 20th of Oct. 44, the 3rd Platoon, Co. "C" expended 295 rounds HE indirect observed fires. The 2nd Platoon Co. "B" expended 261 rounds HE indirect observed fires. Rcn patrol report negative.

On the 21st of Oct. 44, enemy patrol attempted to slip through lines vic of Noveant (U764483) engaged by 1st Rcn Plat. One enemy killed, remainder of patrol driven to north. The 2nd Platoon, Co. "B", expended 86 rounds HE indirect observed fires. The 3rd Platoon, Co. "C", expended 104 rounds HE indirect observed fires.

On 22 Oct. 44 the 2nd Platoon, Co. "B" expended 528 rounds HE and 3rd Platoon Co. "C", 277 rounds HE, all indirect observed fires. Rcn patrol reports negative.

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On the 23d of Oct. 44 the 3d Platoon, Co. "C" fired 12 rounds HE indirect observed fires. Results unknown. Recon patrol report negative.

On the 24th of Oct. 44, based on recommendation of Bn. Commander, reinforced inf. squad 90th Inf. Div. placed north of Noveant (U767496) and 1st Recon Platoon relieved of mission of patrolling from Noveant (U764433) toancy sur Moselle (U778522) during hours of darkness.

On 25 Oct. 44, Co. "A" was relieved from attachment to the 5th Inf. Div. and was withdrawn from position in the 5th Div. bridgehead and placed in Bn. Reserve at Xorville (623525). Platoons of B and C companies were employed on secondary mission and reported no expenditure of ammunition. Bn. notified by CO, 4th Gp, that firing would be limited to 10 rounds per gun per day in the interest of the conservation of ammo. and material.

At 1715, Co. "A" closed into assigned assembly area.

On 26 Oct. 44 the 2nd Plat., Co. "B" and 3rd Plat. Co. "C" were employed in support of 344th FA Bn and expended 55 rounds HE and 65 rounds HE respectively indirect observed fire.

On 27 Oct. 44 there was no change in disposition of Bn. The 2nd Platoon Co. "B" expended 39 rounds of indirect fire mission. 3d Platoon Co. "C" expended 49 rounds of indirect fire missions. The Bn. notified that on 28 October 1944, Co. "A" would relieve Co. "A" of 609th TD Bn and that Bn CP and RR Echelon would move to a new location because the area in which it was located had been allotted for the assembly of the 10th Armored Div.

On 28 Oct. 44 the Bn CP closed in to new location at Tronville (675556) at 0930. Bn Rear Echelon closed in at Dampvitoux (617478) at 1600. Co. "A" completed relief of 609th TD and closed into position at 1600. Two platoons of Co. "A" were placed in secondary mission, one platoon on primary mission. Mission of Co. "A" was Corps general support and supporting the fires of Co. "C", 607th TD Bn. 2nd Plat., Co. "B" and 3rd Platoon, Co. "C", firing in support of 344 FA Bn, expended 27 rounds and 32 rounds indirect fires respectively.

On 29 Oct. 44 there was no change in disposition of Bn. Platoons on secondary mission reported expenditure of ammo as follows: 3rd Platoon, Co. "A" - 65 rounds, 2nd Plat, Co. "C" - 16 rounds and 3rd Platoon, Co. "C" - 20 rounds

On the 30th of Oct. 44 the 2nd Plat., Co. "B" expended 60 rounds HE on secondary mission, 3rd Platoon, Co. "C", expended 45 rounds, Co. "A" did not fire. The 1st and 3rd Platoons of Co. "B" exchanged positions to equalize training of personnel and number of rounds fired per gun. The guns of 1st and 3rd Plat. of Co. "C" were exchanged to equalize the number of rounds per gun fired.

On 31 Oct. 44, Co. "A" fired 4 rounds HE. Co. "B" fired 4 rounds HE. Co. "C" fired 11 rounds HE. There were no other changes in disposition of Battalion.



COMB B. STURGES
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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